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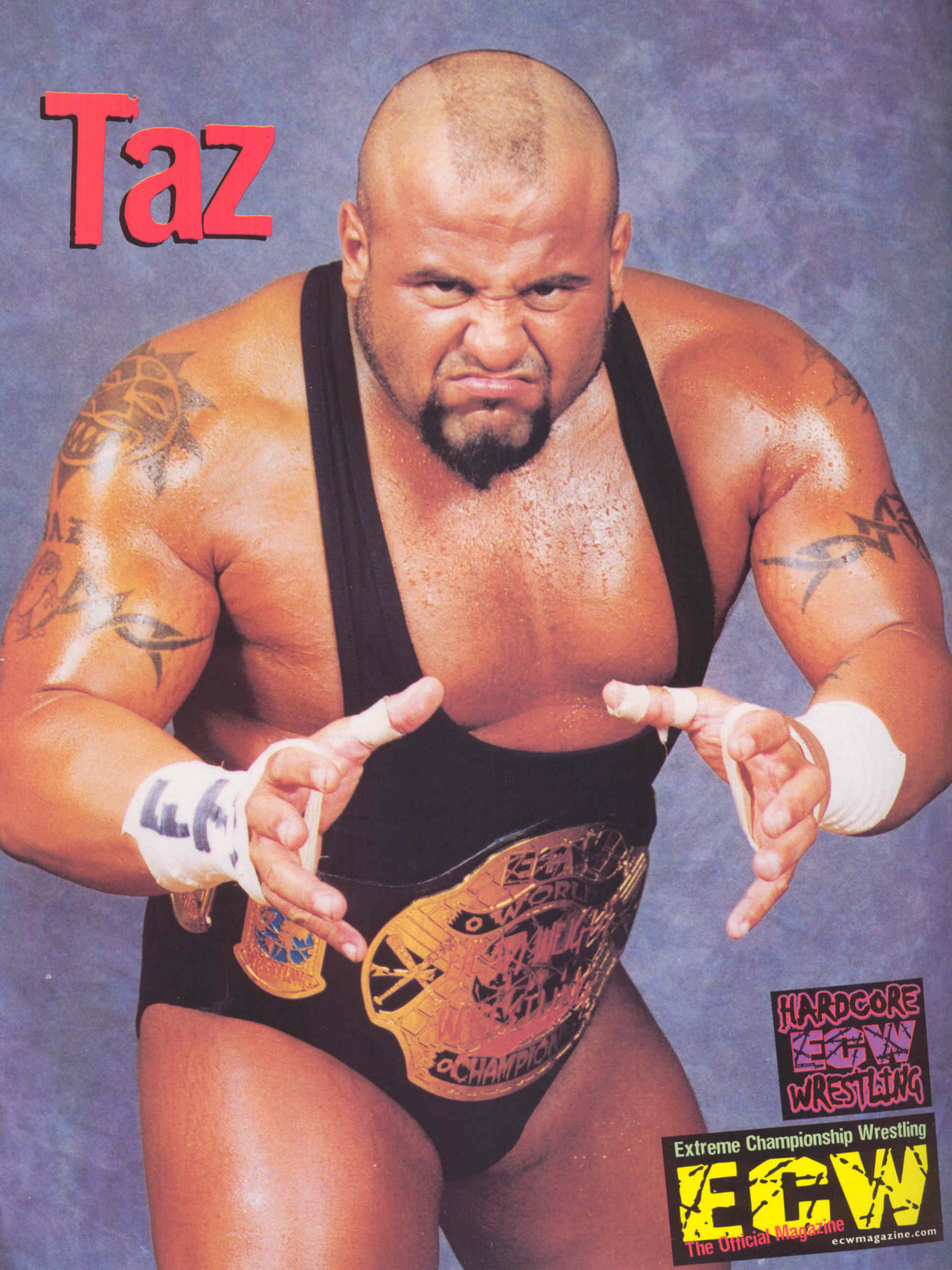
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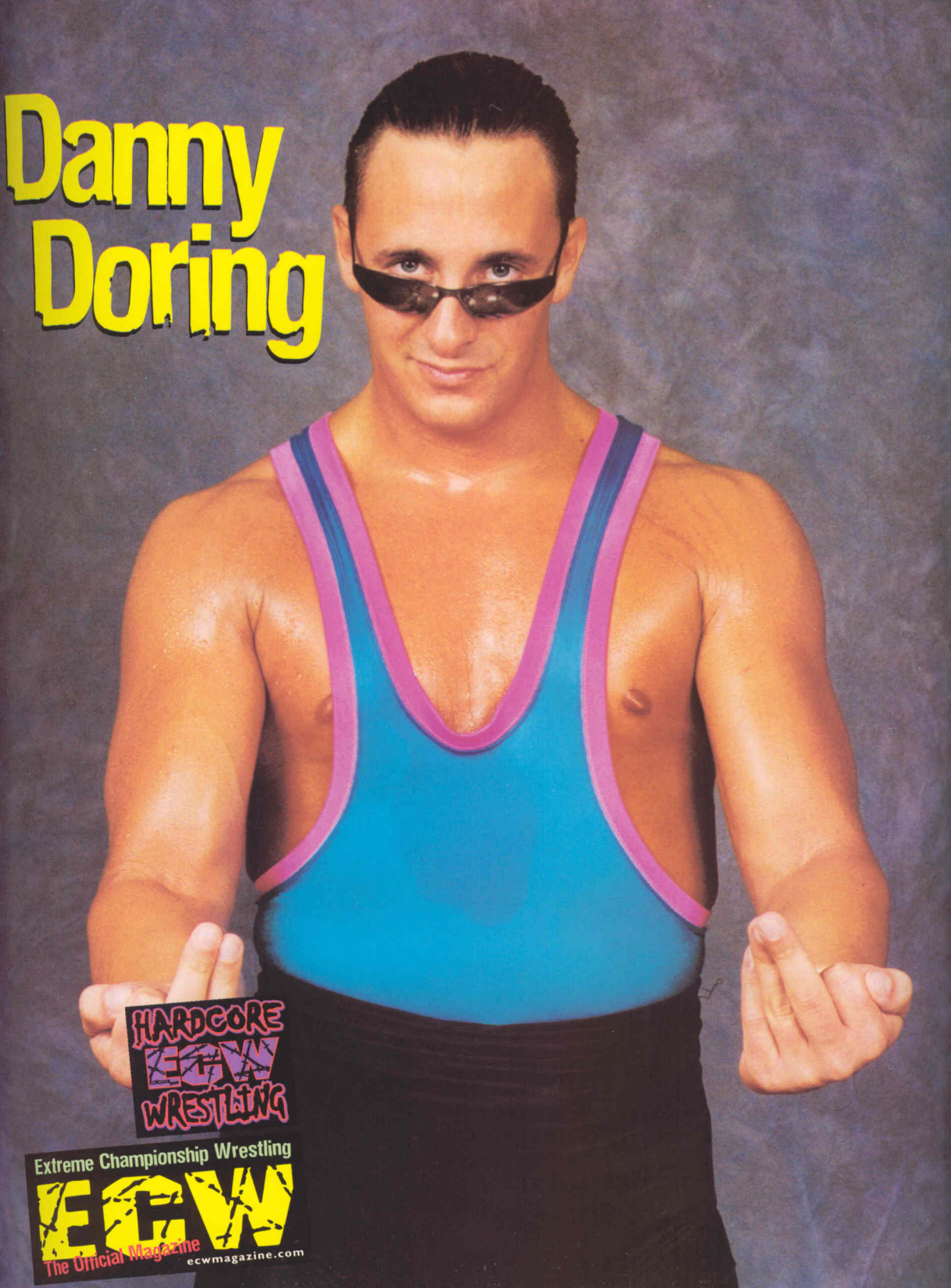

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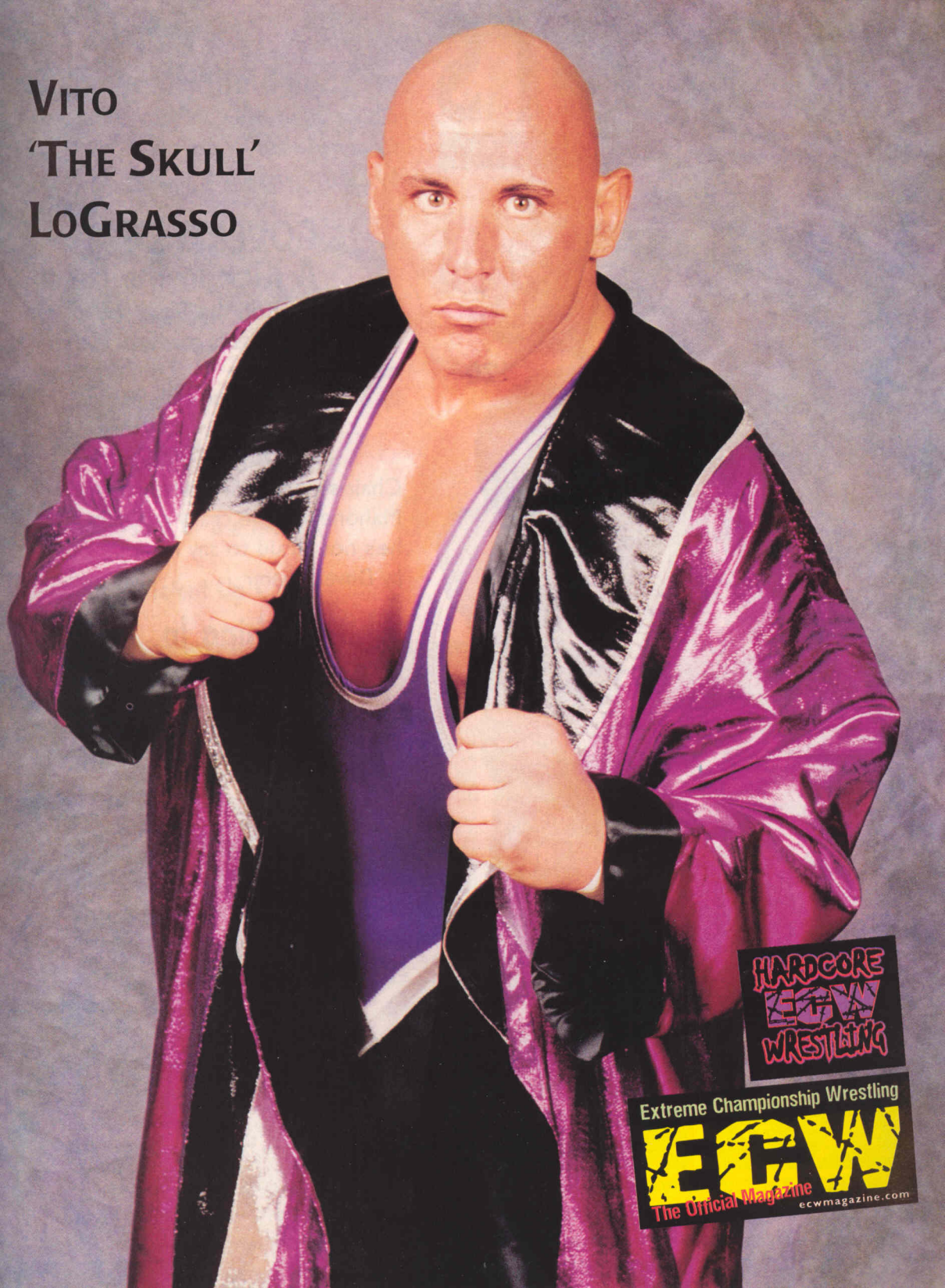

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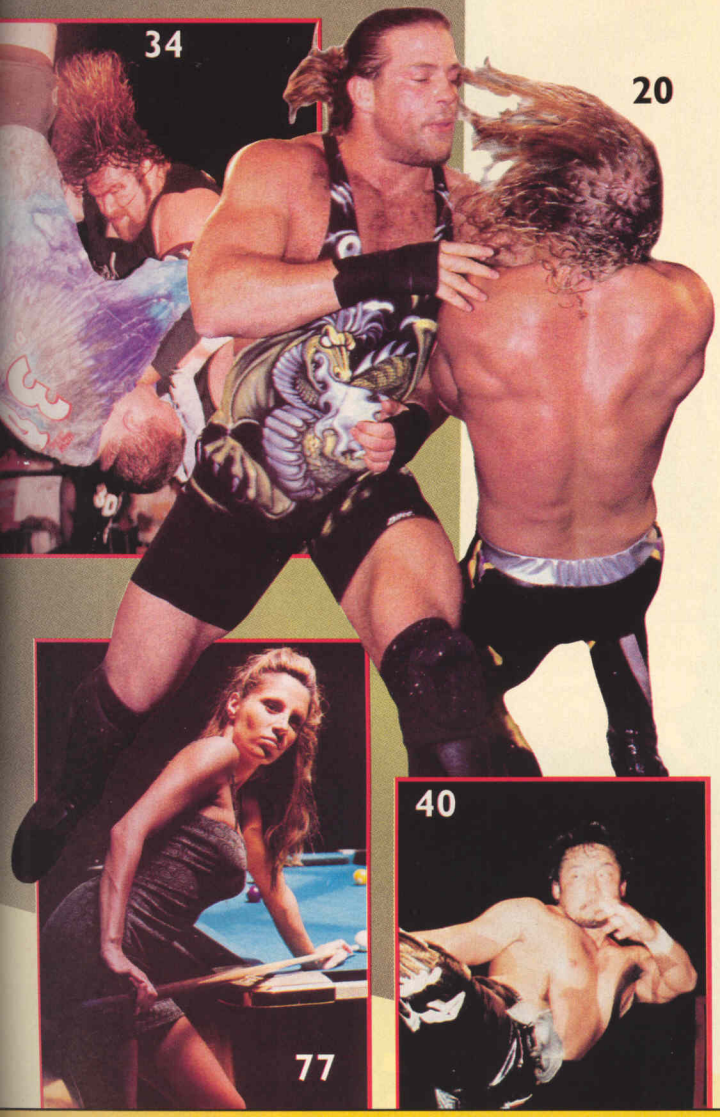

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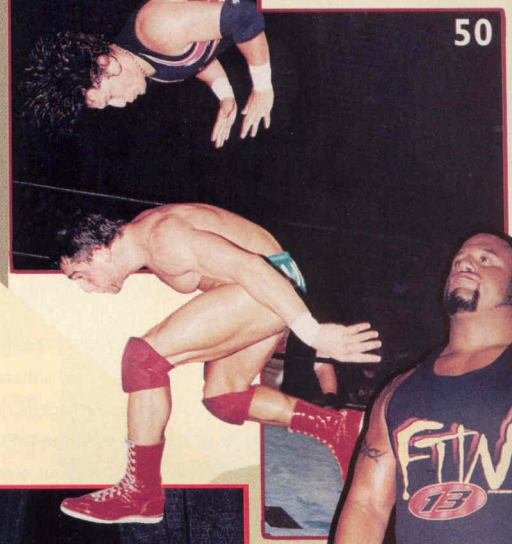

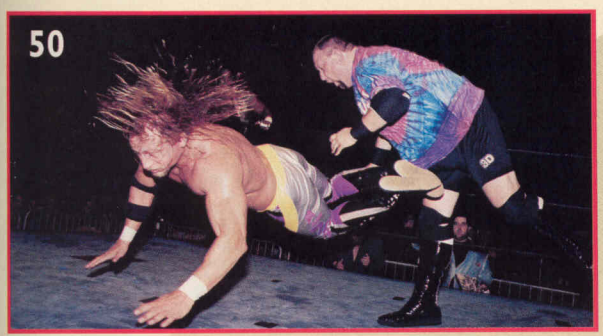

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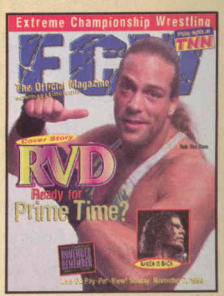

Cover photo of RVD by Marti Funk

Joey Styles is the voice of ECW's weekly syndicated television program and live pay-per-view events. Styles also manages ***www.ECWwrestling.com*** *and the* ***ECW Hardcore Hotline at (900) 737-4ECW.***

DETRACTORS TAKE NOTE: ECW ON TNN IS FRESH, NEW FUN

By the time you read this, Extreme Championship Wrestling's new weekly television program will have aired for a month on The Nashville Network. Finally, ECW will be on North American cable television, with 70 million homes in the United States and another 20 million in Canada. This is, without question, the biggest step in the history of ECW. What was once an overachieving wrestling company with assets of only hard work and the staunch support of the most loyal fans anywhere is now poised to share the national spotlight with the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling.

I am being deluged at ECWwrestling.com with e-mails from both ECW fans of six years and new fans alike celebrating this once seemingly-unattainable breakthrough. However, as has always been the case, there are still those ECW bashers who have smugly raised valid points I will address in this column:

ECW has lost too much talent like The Sandman (Hak), Shane Douglas, Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, Eddy Guerrero, Raven and Bam Bam Bigelow.

We have also developed new talent like Lance Storm, Justin Credible, Sabu, Rob Van Dam, Jerry Lynn, Tommy Dreamer, Taz and many more. In addition, American wrestling fans and promoters had no idea who The Sandman, Benoit, Malenko and Guerrero were before they appeared on ECW TV. Furthermore, as ECW grows as a result of being on TNN and generates more revenue, we can pay salaries more competitive with WCW and the WWF. Do not be surprised if some of the above names, frustrated with how they are being marketed, rush back as their contracts expire.

ECW has no big name stars like The Rock, HHH, Hollywood Hogan and Randy Savage.

The Rock and HHH are only 27 years old and are stars because they were given weekly national cable television as a stage to showcase their tremendous talents both in the ring and on the microphone. Now that ECW's roster has access to that same stage, it stands to reason that Chris Chetti, Danny Doring, Nova and Roadkill may become household names after 150 consecutive weeks on primetime cable television. As for Hogan and Savage, far be it from me to say anything negative about two of the biggest names in the history of the business, but they really are not what we are looking for.

ECW used all of its most creative storylines in 1994 and 1995 and Paul Heyman is out of ideas.

This one really drives me nuts. I am not one to kiss up to the boss, and only he and I know about the wars we have had in private, but people who sell Paul's creativity short are begging to have their opinions shoved right back down their throats. If I were him, I would just repeat all of the classic storylines of the past with our current roster knowing that 90 percent of our viewers have never seen them before. ECW Managing Director Steve Karel (who ties Taz as the most miserable man on the planet and who cheered the hunter that shot Bambi's mother), ECW Financial Director Gene Ciarkowski and ECW's high-powered entertainment attorney Stephen Stern have been negotiating a national cable deal for more than six months. Do you really think that Paul has not been hoarding some magic in that ominous black bag of his waiting for this opportunity, including the use of this team to finally cut the right deal? I shudder at the thought of what Paul will have me doing ... and I am only the play-by-play guy!

I have very realistic expectations of what TNN and ECW can do for one another. My next column will not be about ECW filing for an IPO and Limp Bizkit appearing at the 1999 November To Remember. But even if those things did happen, I would still have ECW bashers asking, "What, no fireworks?" ecw

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the whole f'n mailbag

compiled by brad perkins

DUDE! I GOT WRESTLER SWEAT ON ME!

ECW! ECW! ECW! I'm writing the day after the live event in Birmingham, Ala., in the Boutwell Auditorium. I had fourth-row seats, and my friend had sixth-row seats. His were where the wrestlers came out. I snuck over there and saw the most hardcore ever LIVE. We were right beside D-Von Dudley and Balls Mahoney. We were so close the sweat hit us. When Sabu and Justin Credible were fighting, Sabu got thrown into the guardrail right beside me. Being a fan of both, I cheered Sabu but held the rail so he would hit it hard, but he hit so hard it knocked me back. I had so much fun at ECW. It was the best time of my life! Please come back and visit more often.

Danny Hudson
Dmx0dog420@aol.com

IF YOU'RE GOING TO DRINK AND DRIVE, DRINK POP

It's awesome how ECW has a new magazine. Out of all the official wrestling magazines, the ECW magazine is the best by far. ECW is the most sick, hardcore, extreme wrestling out there. Compared to ECW, the WCW and WWF are as hardcore as drinking a hot cup of coffee while driving. No other wrestling federation can compare to Extreme Championship Wrestling.

Rich Manziello
budrich@berk.com

WE DON'T NEED NO EDUCATION

On June 24, I was faced with a nail-biting decision. Go to my high school graduation, or go see ECW live. Well, when it came down to it, I picked ECW. Needless to say I made a lot of people angry and got screamed at for awhile, but it was all worth it. ECW live is awesome! It was the best show I've seen in a long time. They definitely give you your money's worth. So to anyone who's been pondering the thought of seeing ECW: Go, you won't regret it. I know I don't.

Lisa Michaud
NashvonH[illegible]@aol.com

HEY! TURN OFF THE HOCKEY GAME, ECW IS ON!

The day I have been waiting for has come true. I heard about the deal with TNN and I almost died with excitement. Since 1996 when I saw a "Hard Copy" special on you, I have been waiting for ECW to come to Canada one way or another. It came to the point where I had to go to this crappy bar that played really bad music just to see ECW. After the bar closed down, I had to buy magazines to find out what was going on down there. But now with the deal, not only do I see ECW on Friday nights, Viewers Choice Canada will show your pay-per-views now. Since I have grown up with the WWF, I can't say that I am not a wrestling fan because it has been in my face since I was 4 years old. But the revolution has begun and "EC F'n W" will kick ass and take names later. The only thing that will make this even better will be if you come up north for shows.

Aki Vretis
Akivretis@hotmail.com

PART JOEY STYLES, PART FRANCINE

I just got finished with "In Styles" by Joey Styles (August 1999). His column inspired me to write this letter. You see, like him, I was hooked on wrestling at an early age. Because of my love for the sport, I too dream of becoming a commentator and/or writer. Many of my friends think that I am crazy and that my hopes will never come true. (They also point out the fact that I am a 14-year-old girl and the fact that the only role women play is as cheerleaders.) Well, I learned from Joey that hopes and dreams can come true.

Jessica Daus
Wynantskill, N.Y.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

I just got the new edition of the ECW Magazine, and I have to admit you've done a great job again. I've been an ECW fan since 1993 and was very curious what the ECW Magazine would look like. The first two issues are very cool! Tons of great pin-ups, good reports and everything in full color. This magazine is a part of the ECW family! Like I never miss an ECW TV show or an ECW pay-per-view, I'll never miss an issue of this magazine. I just hope we'll be able to see one or two ECW shows over here in Germany.

Frank Wegner
ECWMadman@aol.com

AN IMPACT PLAYER?

I'm from Toronto ... Ontario ... Canada. I just bought the second issue of your magazine. I can't wait until you come to Canada. This magazine is by far the best wrestling magazine I've ever read. My favorite wrestlers are Lance Storm, Justin Credible, Tajiri and the "Whole F'n Show" Rob Van Dam. The full-page pictures are great, and all the writers are really good, especially the Lance Storm article and the Tommy Dreamer article. I can't think of a single thing you could do to improve this already amazing magazine.

Jon Riina
rvd3d@home.com

READIN' AIN'T FER ME

Everyone hails your magazine, but not me. I love your federation and give all your wrestlers the utmost respect, but your magazine is not worth six dollars, maybe three. All it is is a bunch of pictures of wrestlers and stuff from your events. If I am paying six dollars, I want some good stuff, not just lame pictures. It far surpasses the WCW magazine, but please buy a copy of one of the two WWF magazines and get a lesson from them. Now my views of your so-called "magazine" do not affect at all my views on your wonderful federation. I put you above both the others. So put a little oomph into it and drop your stinkin' prices people.

Emery Peck
DazMrAss2u@aol.com

OH MY GOD!

I have just finished reading the second issue of the ECW Magazine, and I have to say "In Styles" by Joey Styles in this issue (August 1999) has inspired me. Because my dream is to become a professional wrestling commentator, and the article by Joey Styles has just pushed me further to help reach my goal, and now I can't wait until I reach my goal. I would like to thank Joey Styles for even more inspiration then I had before. Keep up the good work Joey!

Paul Sullivan
MrSocko189@aol.com

We get a lot of e-mails at ECW Magazine inquiring about fan clubs and Web sites to learn more about your favorite wrestling federation. Here is a short list of groups and sites to enhance your ECW experience:

- **Just ECW Campaign**, Extreme pen pals spreading the word of ECW all over the world by letter. Contact Tommy Pate at: (334) 626-2937 or 31451 Buzbee Road, Spanish Fort, AL 36527
- **Strictly ECW**, The genesis of the ECW fan movement at www.strictlyecw.com. Contact Tony Lewis at tonysecw@aol.com.
- **ECW News**, The online newsletter for ECW fans at www.ecwnews.com. Contact B.J. Leiby at bjleiby@ecwnews.com.
- **Official Francine Fan Society**, The online Francine fan club at clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/officialfrancinefansociety.
- **ECW Fan Club**, The online Yahoo! fan club for ECW at clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/ecw.

Got something to say? We welcome your correspondence. Keep your letters short and please include your full name, address and daytime phone number for verification (address and phone numbers will not be published). Send your letter to:

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Or e-mail your letter to:
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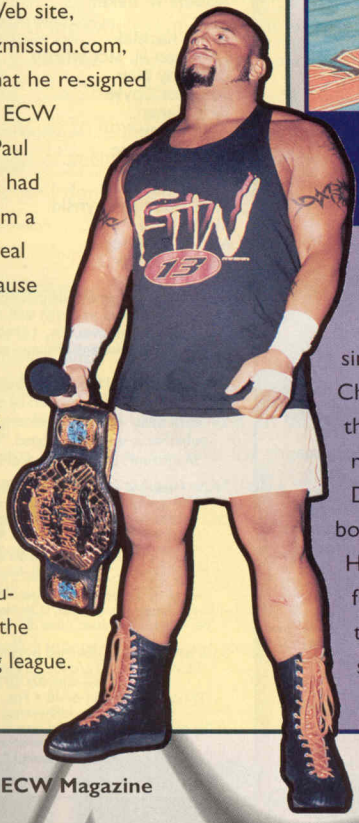
NEWS & RUMORS

TAZ RE-SIGNS WITH ECW

ECW announced Aug. 11 that Taz had signed a contract to remain in the federation for three more years. The heavyweight champion had been approached by the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling, but chose to remain in ECW because of the creative control he has in the company. Taz issued an official statement on his Web site, www.tazmission.com, saying that he re-signed because ECW owner Paul Heyman had given him a better deal and because he feels comfortable in ECW. The signing was considered crucial for the growing league.



Taz and Tommy Dreamer Go After Steve Corino, Yoshihiro Tajiri and Jack Victory

"Team Corino" (Rhino, Steve Corino and Jack Victory) looks on as Tajiri earns his blood money, attacking Taz at the Heat Wave '99 pay-per-view event in July.

Steve Corino has been very outspoken about the drawbacks of hardcore wrestling since entering Extreme Championship Wrestling earlier this year. Now his mouth has raised the ire of Taz and Tommy Dreamer. Corino has targeted both men since day one in ECW. He wants to strip the world title from Taz and has publicly belittled Dreamer on several occasions. Yoshihiro Tajiri crossed the line when he sprayed an oral mist – not seen in the United States since the days of The Great Muta – in the eyes of Dreamer's second, Francine. Corino has eluded Taz's grasp so far as he has left his paid Taz-killers such as Tajiri, Rhino and Jack Victory to suffer at the lethal hands of "The Human Suplex Machine." It is only a matter of time before Corino must face Taz and/or Dreamer in the ring. Those two are foaming at the mouth at the opportunity to finally put an end to Corino.

Sabu (left), Rob Van Dam (middle) and Jerry Lynn (right) got into a bit of a scrap during the Storm/Credible vs. Lynn/Van Dam match at the Heat Wave pay-per-view in July 1999.

Three-Way Feud Develops Between Sabu, Rob Van Dam and Jerry Lynn

Loud yelling and objects crashing against walls were heard from the locker room of World Television Champion Rob Van Dam, Sabu and Bill Alfonso after the first taping for The Nashville Network on Aug. 14 at the Seagate Center in Toledo, Ohio.

Tensions exploded between the former world tag team championship partners when Van Dam hit Sabu with the Van Daminator. This was the culmination of several strained months that saw Van Dam and Sabu constantly at odds. "The New F'N Show" Jerry Lynn wants a piece of Van Dam and the world television title. Lynn has also issued a challenge to Sabu. Alfonso, Van Dam and Sabu's manager, Alfonso said Sabu had been uncontrollable recently. This situation seems to take new twists and turns every week.

Axl Rotten and New Jack Form a Tag Team

Two of the most violent wrestlers in ECW history, New Jack and Axl Rotten, have formed a tag team with plans to go after world tag team champions Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley. Jack has already held the world tag title alongside Mustafa as The Gangstas and later with John Kronus as a partner. New Jack and Rotten almost had the belts won at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia on July 31, but Balls and Spike proved too violent that night, as Mahoney pinned Rotten after putting him through a flaming table. New Jack and Rotten showed the champions exactly how serious they are by attacking them after the bout.

"I'm not saying where we are gonna show up next," Jack said. "All I'm gonna say is that we want the straps and we are gonna bring you violence."

"I welcome the challenge," Mahoney said. "Me and Spike are the most hardcore duo on the planet. We already did what me and Axl couldn't do and win the belts. If Axl and New Jack want to get in the ring with us, we'll be right there with fire, thumbtacks, staple guns, tables, chairs, forks, whatever. We love it."

SYMBIOTIC R

TNN and ECW join forces to form a kickass TV tag team

Network launches 'E-C-DUB' into national spotlight

by Steve Anderson

What makes professional wrestling popular? Is it the athletes? Is it the products the promotions present? Is it the ability to tap into what the fans really want?

All of these have contributed to current and past wrestling booms. But wrestling promotions also need a prominent forum to showcase their performers and give hardcore fans the opportunity to see their heroes in action. That forum is national cable television.

The World Wrestling Federation's Monday night programming resides on cable's USA network, while World Championship Wrestling's homes are the Time Warner-owned TBS (Thursdays) and TNT (Mondays). For several years, the two promotions have sparred on the cable television battlefield. Now a new contender makes the one-on-one match-up an Extreme Championship Wrestling-style "three-way dance."

Enter ECW and its new national cable residence, The Nashville Network (TNN).

For months, rumors persisted concerning TNN's desire to add professional wrestling to its program schedule. ECW seemed to be one of only a handful of promotions up for the prime spot.

"If you are looking around and talk about your wrestling organizations, we certainly know the ▶

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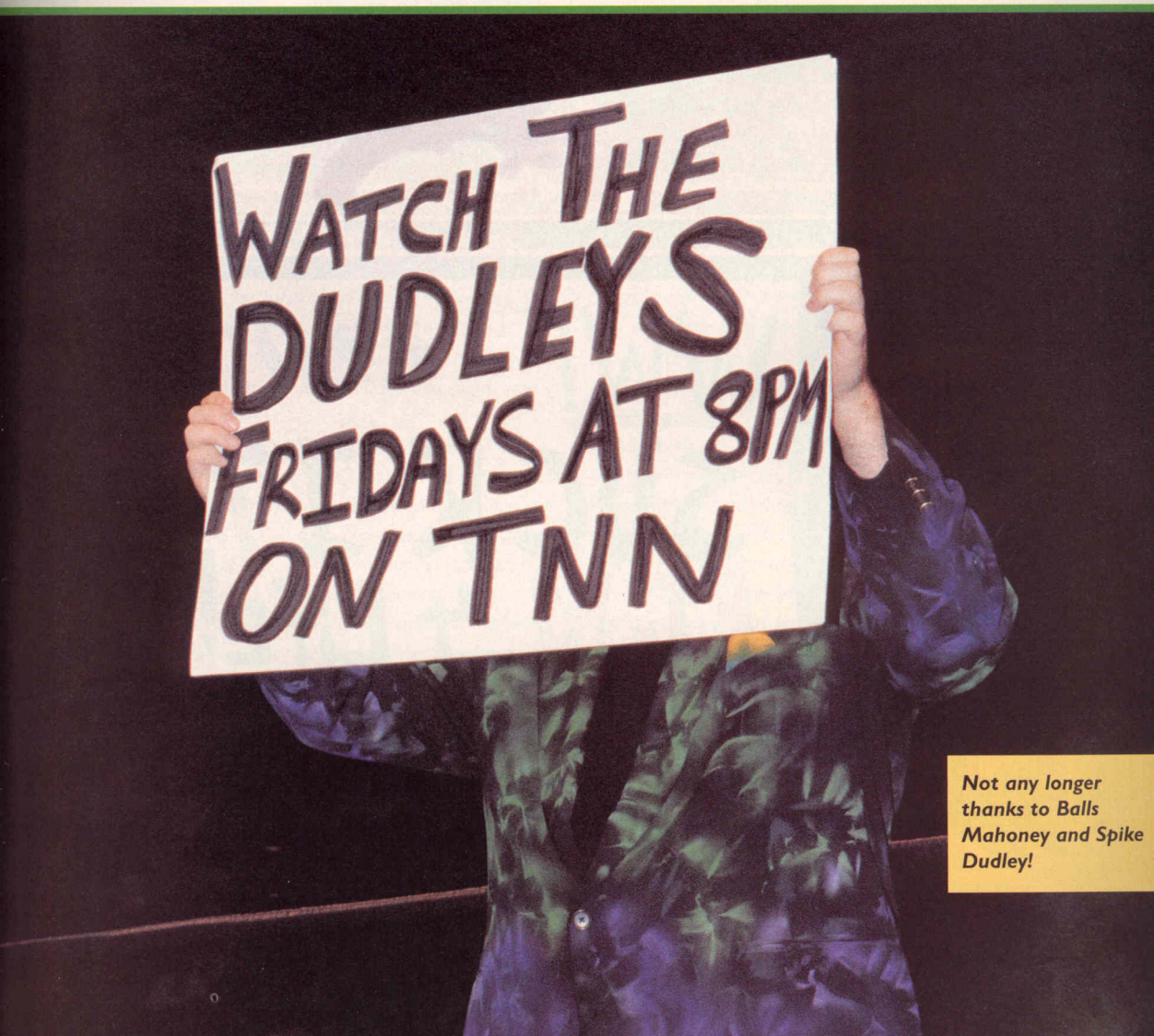


Not any longer thanks to Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley!

WWF and WCW" said David Hall, president of TNN. "You look around and see what other opportunities there are in that arena, and up floats ECW."

Could ECW capitalize on six years of success that included sold-out house shows, pay-per-views and highly rated syndicated programming on about 100 television stations and regional sports networks? Could it rise above its peers who were also contending for the opportunity to be showcased on TNN?

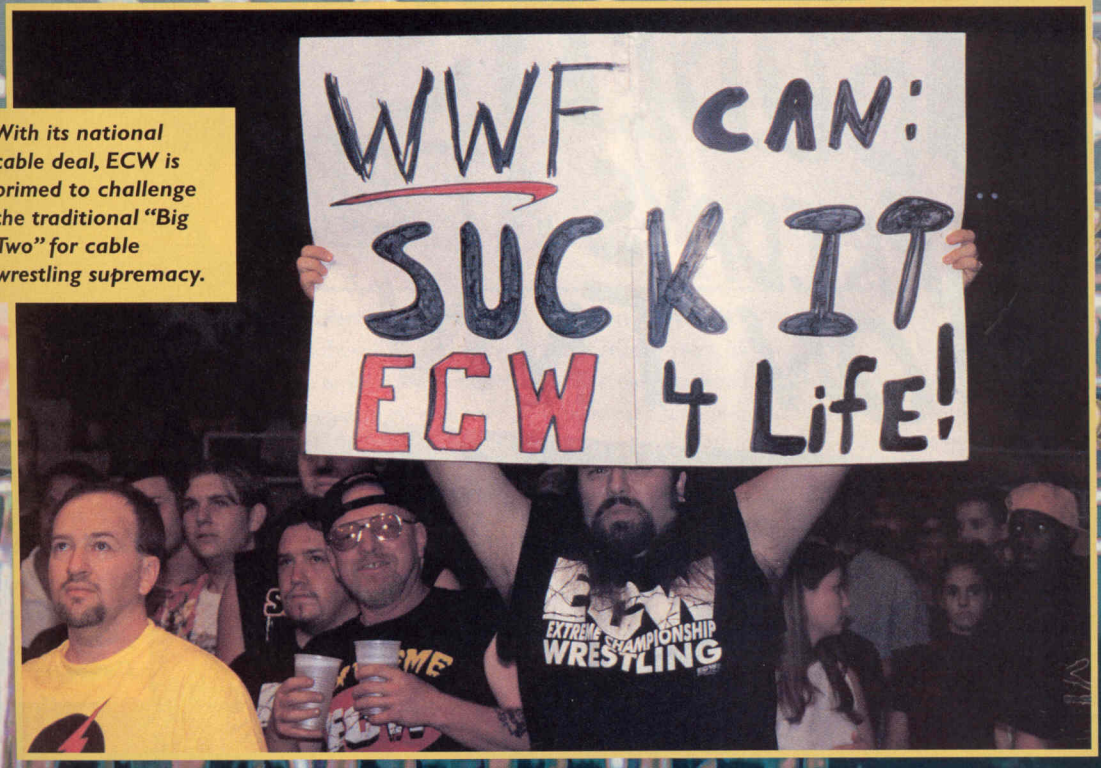
"There were other people trying to woo our attention, and I guess [with] the success that had been achieved from the syndicated product and the regional sports product, ECW had already caught our eye," Hall said. "As well, they have a little more loyal following built in."

In June, the agreement was finalized, and ECW was the "chosen one."

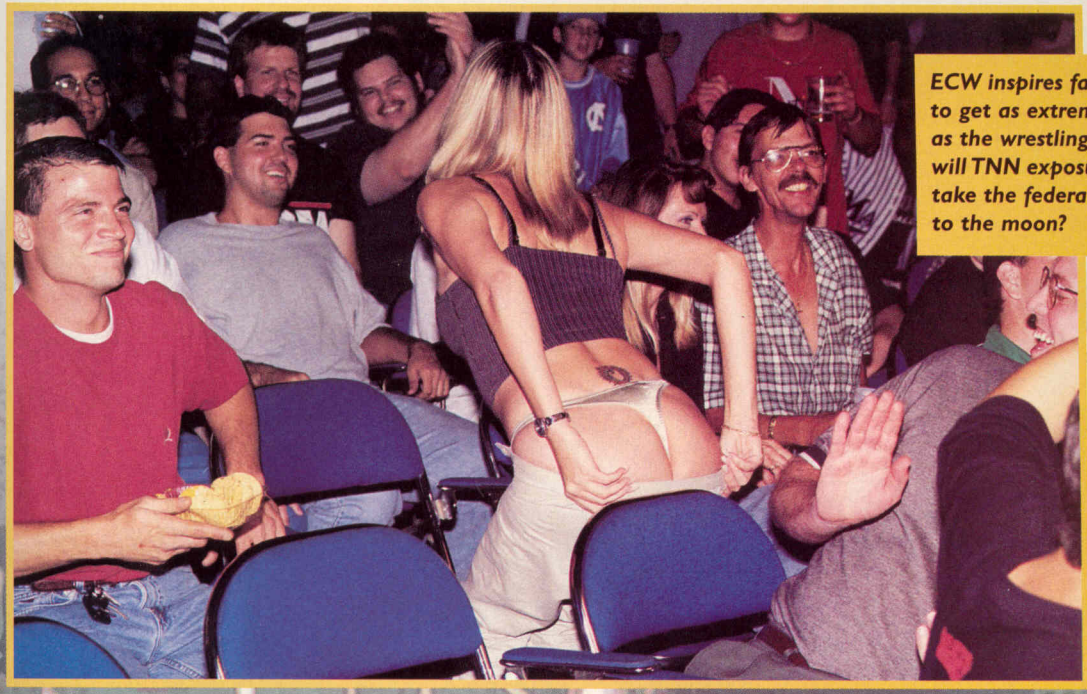
"Wrestling makes extremely popular television, particularly among teens and young male viewers," Hall said in the official press release announcing the deal. "We estimate that nearly 30 million homes tune in to wrestling on cable each month. With wrestling, TNN can greatly expand the teen and young male audience already attracted to our Friday night sports-based entertainment lineup."

The program debuted at 8 p.m. Eastern/Pacific Time on Friday, Aug. 27, 1999, serving as the feature piece in a block of sports entertainment programming that includes RollerJam. There is even more power behind this punch with the acquisition of Will Byrd, former producer of Nitro and WCW pay-per-views. Byrd will be Senior Producer of the ECW program.

TNN should do for ECW what USA and TNT did for the WWF and WCW, respectively. Cable tele-



With its national cable deal, ECW is primed to challenge the traditional "Big Two" for cable wrestling supremacy.



ECW inspires fans to get as extreme as the wrestling. But will TNN exposure take the federation to the moon?

vision has played an integral part in the resurgence of professional wrestling both in the 1980s and 1990s. MTV was an early player in 1984 when it televised the "Brawl to Settle it All" between then-WWF champion Hulk Hogan and Roddy Piper. The rock and wrestling connection was forged on that night, and cable was the catalyst.

Several wrestling promotions have relied on the almighty power of syndication. That venture can be risky because a wrestling group is enslaved to the whims of a local station and its viewers. Time slots for the programs are usually not consistent from market to market, and a poor time slot can mean death for any program.

Reliance on national cable networks has increased as purely independent television stations become scarce. The increasing number of networks (with UPN and WB added over the past few years) need homes on local stations to gain visibility in certain markets. This limits the ability of a local station to add programming of its own. For a few years, the WWF even turned its back on syndication in favor of an all-USA Network line-up. Wrestling Challenge was canceled, and Superstars moved to cable.

The USA Network has aired WWF programming since the 1980s. It started with programs like Prime Time Wrestling, a weekly recap of the syndicated shows that is actually RAW's predecessor, and Tuesday Night Titans (with the ironic acronym of TNT), wrestling's first and only talk show.

With the exception of the mid-1980s, when the WWF "took over," WCW programs have aired on TBS, an Atlanta-based "superstation" owned by Ted Turner, for nearly three decades. World Championship Wrestling was one of the station's higher-rated shows that spawned spin-offs like the Power Hour, the Main Event and the phenomenon called Monday Nitro.

WCW gained an advantage in the race for cable supremacy when Turner bought what was then known as the National Wrestling Alliance. That advantage only increased when Time Warner bought out Turner's television empire. Surprisingly to many, the WWF has maintained a level playing field, with RAW reigning as USA's "ratings king."

Cable has undergone phenomenal growth over the past decade. The traditional networks, once secure in their positions of dominance, have grown anxious. As cable has grown, so have the ratings for the individual networks.

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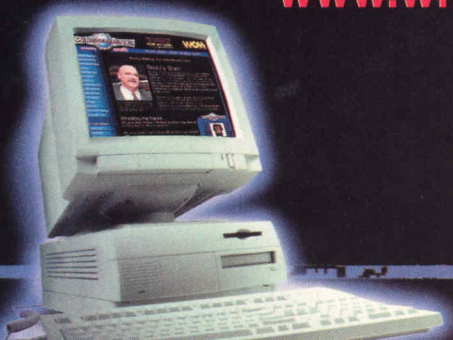

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The CBS-owned Nashville Network boasts an audience of 80 million viewers in North America and celebrated its 16th anniversary in March 1999. TNN has become a premier showcase for country music entertainment and lifestyle. What ECW brings to the table is a key demographic that TNN has coveted and courted with its Friday night programming.

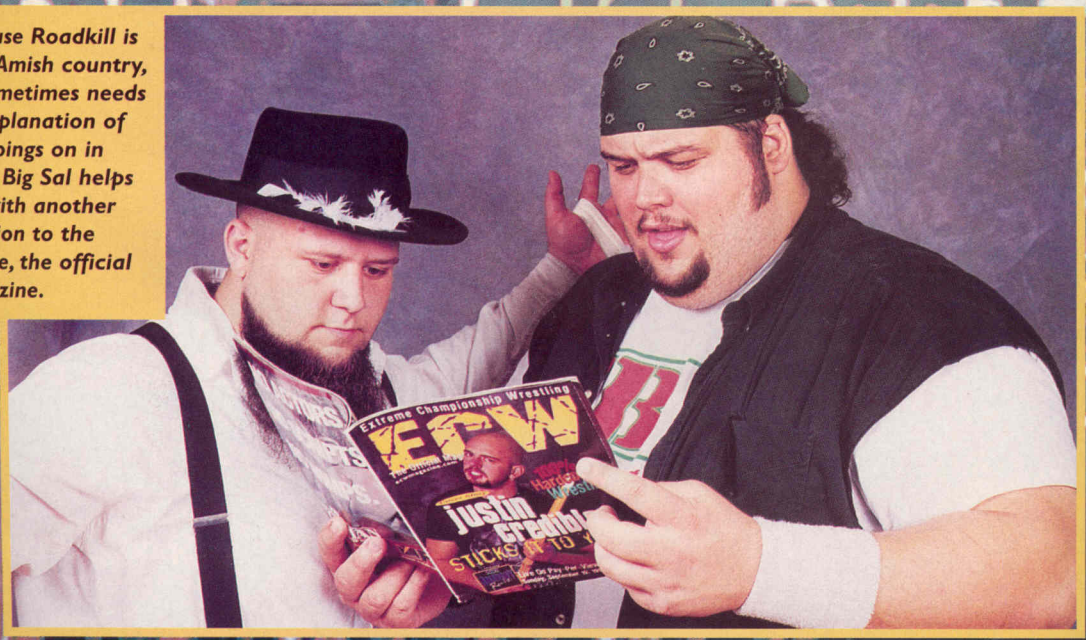
"If you look at what we've been able to do with bringing back roller derby with RollerJam," Hall said, "and drawing this young audience into the network, it's an opportunity for looking at what other wrestling products are doing for this young demo and to provide additional programming or entertainment for that consumer that's already there watching RollerJam and hanging around for monster trucks."

Hall said that TNN brings something to the table as well in its partnership with the wrestling promotion.

"(TNN) brings a nationally recognized television marketing partner to the party," Hall said. "It takes a product out in a consistent place to the audience and brings our marketing promotion to the table and should help grow not only the live attendance, but also should dramatically increase the pay-per-view audience."

Many wrestling promotions have come and gone in the 1990s. The once-mighty American Wrestling Association ruled the Midwest, but sputtered and died when the competition encroached on its territory. Other promotions like the Global Wrestling Federation, Smoky Mountain Wrestling, the Universal Wrestling Federation (Bill Watts and Herb Abrams versions) and the United States Wrestling Association all had potential and thrived against the odds, only to crash and burn later. There was promise. There was bluster. In the end, there was only failure.

ECW has witnessed the carnage left behind when a wrestling promotion becomes defunct. It has had its share of ups and downs. The "cult following" that it experienced early on only meant that it was being viewed by a smaller audience, as opposed to what its larger competitors were drawing both on television and in arenas. ECW is now in that league, thanks in part to TNN.



Because Roadkill is from Amish country, he sometimes needs an explanation of the goings on in ECW. Big Sal helps out with another addition to the league, the official magazine.

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TNN ECW

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"Our new TNN series gives ECW its first truly national exposure," said ECW Executive Producer Paul Heyman in the same press release confirming the new arrangement. "We are going to develop for TNN an episodic weekly wrestling series that emphasizes the extreme athleticism of ECW's vast talent pool, which brings to the table the wildest action and most compelling storylines in the genre of sports entertainment."

ECW will now be in front of a nationwide audience. The rebellious promotion has gained notoriety for not only top-quality wrestling action, but also controversy both in and out of the ring. A brighter spotlight equals a larger microscope. Can ECW appeal to its new audience and its die-hard, established audience at the same time under such intense scrutiny?

Can ECW appeal to its new audience and its die-hard, established audience at the same time under such intense scrutiny?

The show will be rated TV-PG-14, so the proverbial "envelope" can still be pushed. Appealing to a larger audience and the executives at TNN may force ECW to tone down certain aspects of its show, but that does not mean a loss of identity. ECW is more than broken bodies on splintered tables and torn flesh on cheese graters. ECW features talented mat wrestlers and high-flying risk takers. Brawling is a part of it and, yes, blood is spilled. That aspect of the promotion has never, and probably will never, change.

"There is always concern when you have this kind of product on the air. I think the thing that ECW has is its athletic style of wrestling," Hall said. "It gives us the opportunity to focus on the athleticism of the ECW-type wrestler in an hour of programming that will be very exciting and entertaining to the audience."

The TNN-ECW relationship is only in its infancy, but optimism is high as success looks promising for both sides in this business relationship.

"The relationship becomes a success as we grow both parties' business," Hall said. "We will definitely help to grow the ECW business. And ECW and the way we're looking at presenting it will help us grow our Friday night business."

ECW succeeded where others failed because of its perseverance despite adverse conditions. Negatives were turned into positives. Setbacks became advantages. Its obituary has been written many times, yet ECW has survived. ECW is a prime example of wrestling's resurgence.

Which came first: wrestling's popularity or the influence of cable television? The "chicken and egg" debate is irrelevant. Wrestling has grown to an even larger monster than it was in the mid-1980s. As wrestling enters a new millennium, the monster is so large that there is room for "new kids on the block," namely ECW and TNN. ecw

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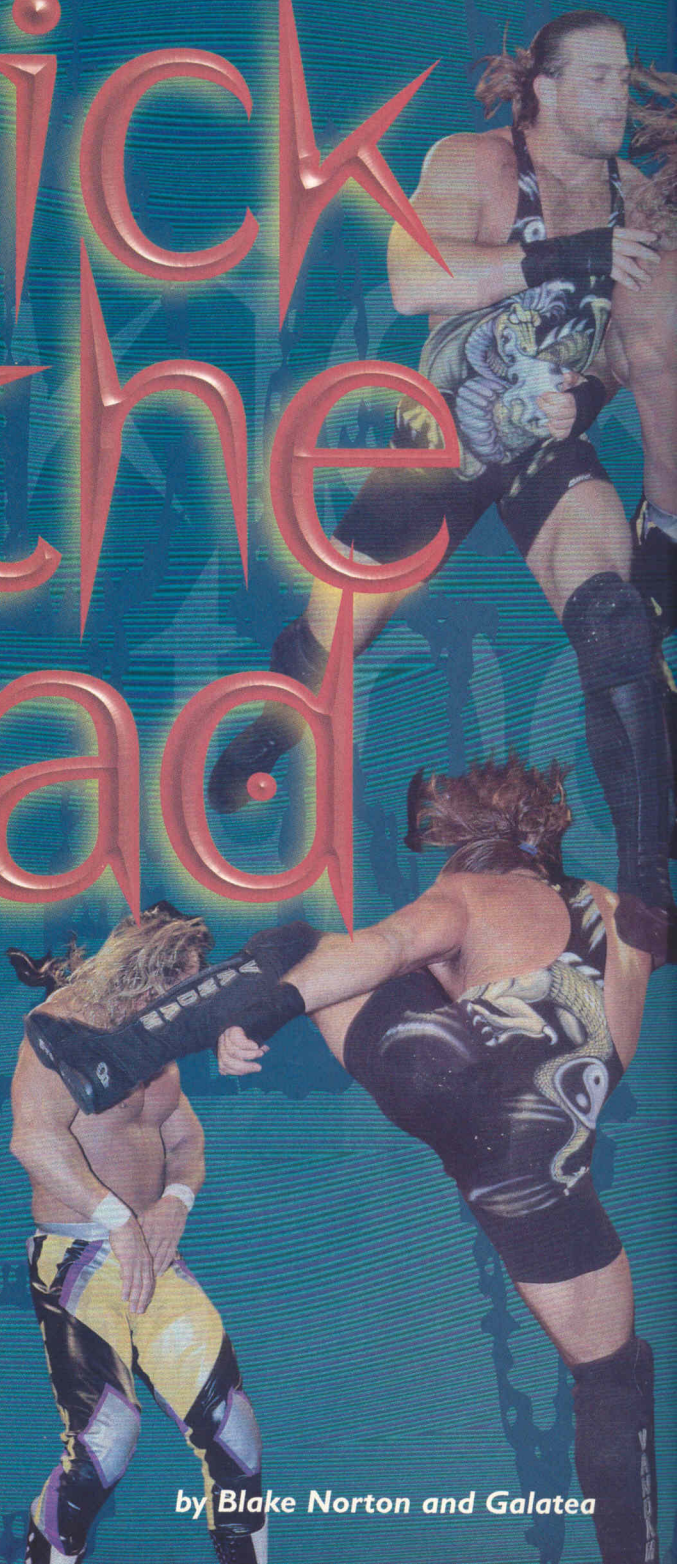
a kick in the head



TV Champ Rob Van Dam sounds off on ECW, TNN, his career and the heavyweight title

by Blake Norton and Galatea

cover story

ROB VAN DAM

ECW Magazine: What are your thoughts on Extreme Championship Wrestling making the jump to being on national cable television each week?

Rob Van Dam: I think it's great! I'm very happy. It's a long-awaited line that we're crossing here. Being a nationally and world-recognized organization, it's something that we've all stuck around and worked our asses off for.

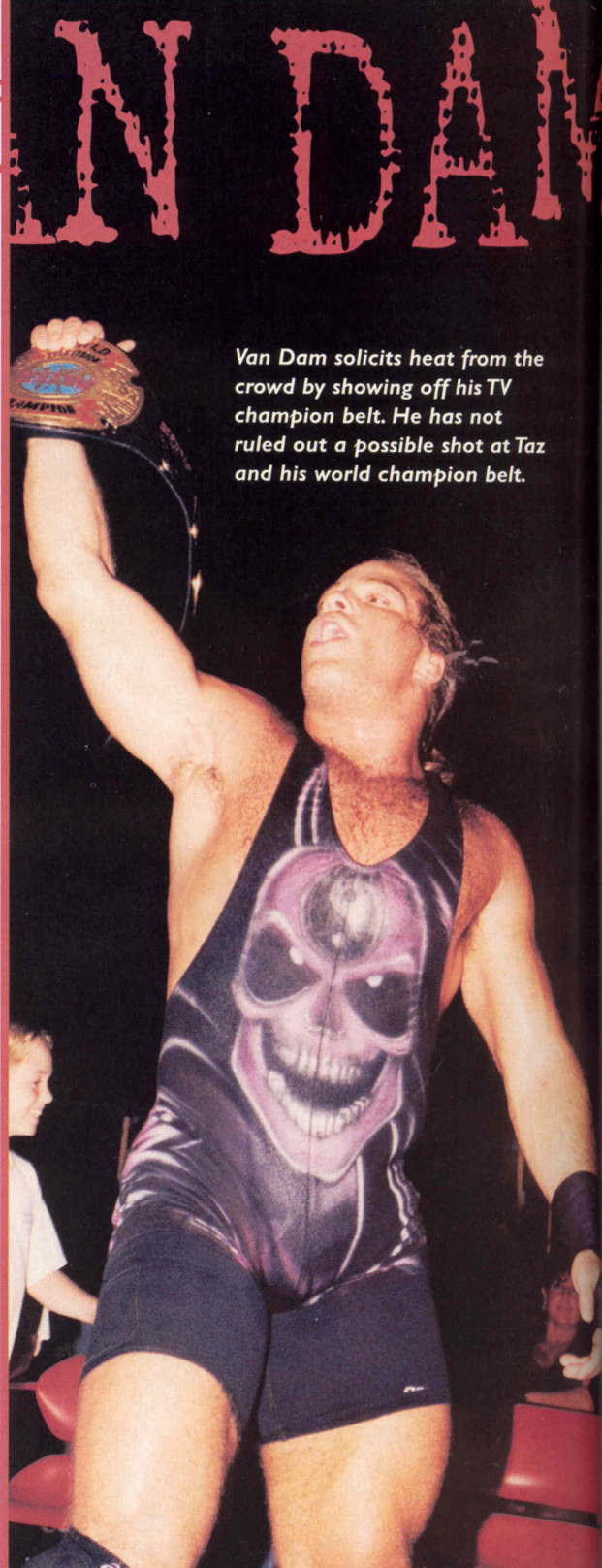
"... we're not going to [cut back], but i'm sure we're going to have a lot of critics right on our asses ..."

ECW: There's been some talk about new restrictions for televised matches. For example, with the pay-per-views you had some mandatory guidelines.

RVD: From what I've been told we're not going to [cut back], but I'm sure we're going to have a lot of critics right on our asses, wondering what kind of role models we are, this and that. Maybe we are a controversial, politically incorrect group, so that's OK. And if we're really allowed to speak our minds on it and say how we really feel about it, then good.

ECW: So you expect by and large that things will remain much like they are now on television? The kind of angles that go on and the way ECW approaches ...

RVD: I believe it will be. There have been fans that have said, "This particular pay-per-view wasn't nearly as hardcore as the other ones. What happened? Are



Van Dam solicits heat from the crowd by showing off his TV champion belt. He has not ruled out a possible shot at Taz and his world champion belt.

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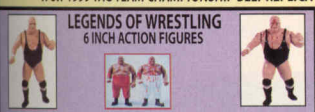

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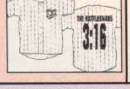

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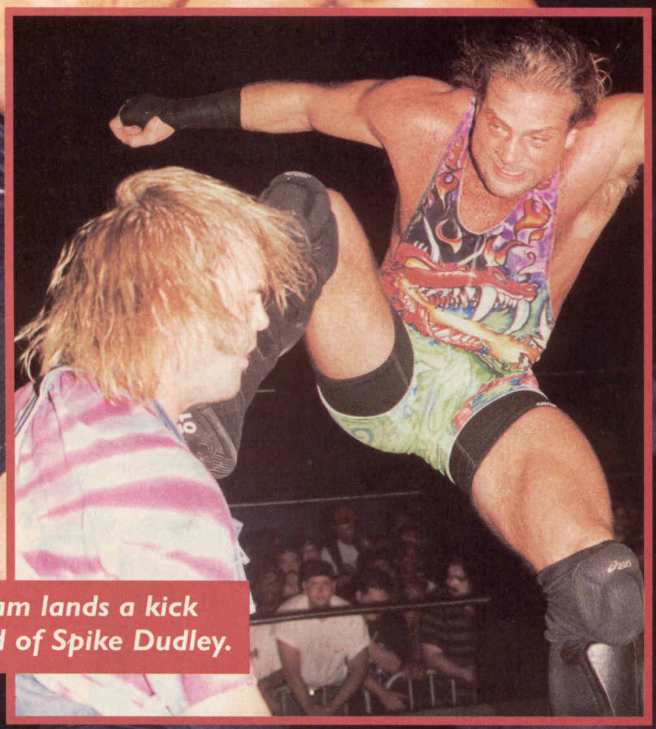
"... i brought into the business with me my acrobatics, my martial arts skills, moves, abilities, and i tried to adapt them toward wrestling."

Van Dam cranks a headlock on Lance Storm.



Rob Van Dam lands a kick to the head of Spike Dudley.

you guys toning it down a little?" But we hadn't toned down. The matches that night might not have been ...

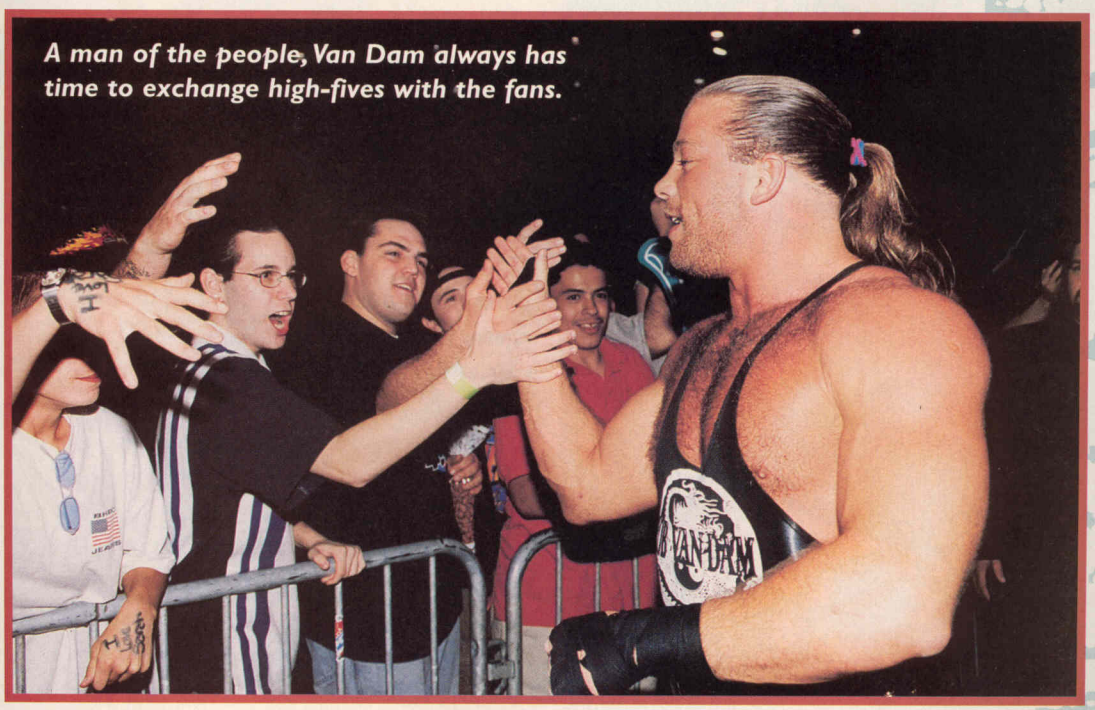
ECW: ... toward the hardcore style?

RVD: Yeah. I mean, as an individual in the ring, I try not to do the exact same move every night. There may be some occasions when performers modify their moves, but I do not expect the company to change what we're known for and what the fans get excited about when they watch us. That's really what we stand for.

ECW: How did you become so versatile in the ring? As many fans know, you were trained by Sabu's uncle, The Sheik. But how do you incorporate your multiple wrestling styles in the ring?

RVD: I've always tried to be unique and I've never patterned myself after anybody else. Although The Sheik's style is different from what I do now, I brought into the business with me my acrobatics, my martial arts skills, moves, abilities, and I tried to adapt them toward wrestling. Everything I learned from The Sheik, his views on the business. He taught me all the basics of wrestling. I really spent a couple years trying to fit my moves in, seeing how they work with actual matches. Then, after I went to Japan in 1993 and I learned, it was like, "wow!" It was the opposite of what a lot of Americans over here were telling me. In Japan after every match, at first, they were telling me

> "... during the match if i wouldn't kick harder i would get my teeth kicked in."



A man of the people, Van Dam always has time to exchange high-fives with the fans.

"kick harder, kick harder," and during the match if I wouldn't kick harder I would get my teeth kicked in.

ECW: They'd kick the crap out of you?

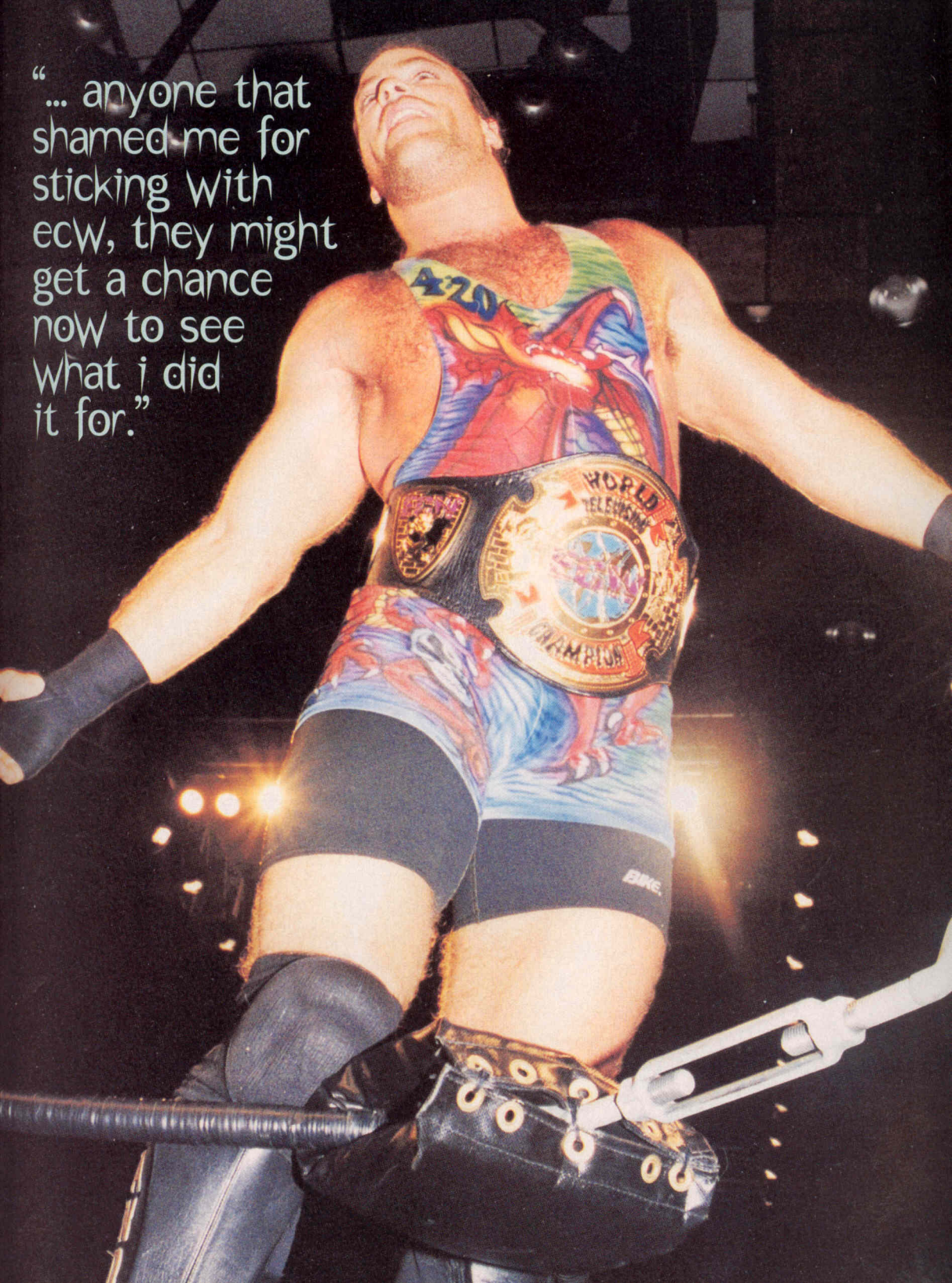
RVD: Exactly. That's a great way to learn.

ECW: Did you wrestle in college at all?

RVD: I never went to college. I knew I wanted to be a professional wrestler when I was in high school. I already knew I needed to be big because I wasn't a big kid, so I was trying to eat more and I started lifting in high school. I joined high school wrestling and I learned that the main goal then was to try to drop as much weight as possible. I went to school in Michigan

> "i was kickboxing on my own for non-school activities, and i was working on my own trying to learn what i could to break into pro wrestling."

and they take that s--- very seriously. They're all about running for three hours with eight sweaters on, making yourself throw up and not eating. And if you weighed 150 pounds, you'd try to drop down to 135 pounds by Saturday, and that was just crazy. I also noticed the guys with the reputations of being the best wrestlers were very skinny and wiry with skinny arms, and that was totally not what I wanted to do. I had already been studying health and nutrition for a couple years, and I knew that I only had so many teenage, super growth years where my body was going to take on the extra muscle mass. Even when you're not working out,


"... anyone that shamed me for sticking with ecw, they might get a chance now to see what i did it for."
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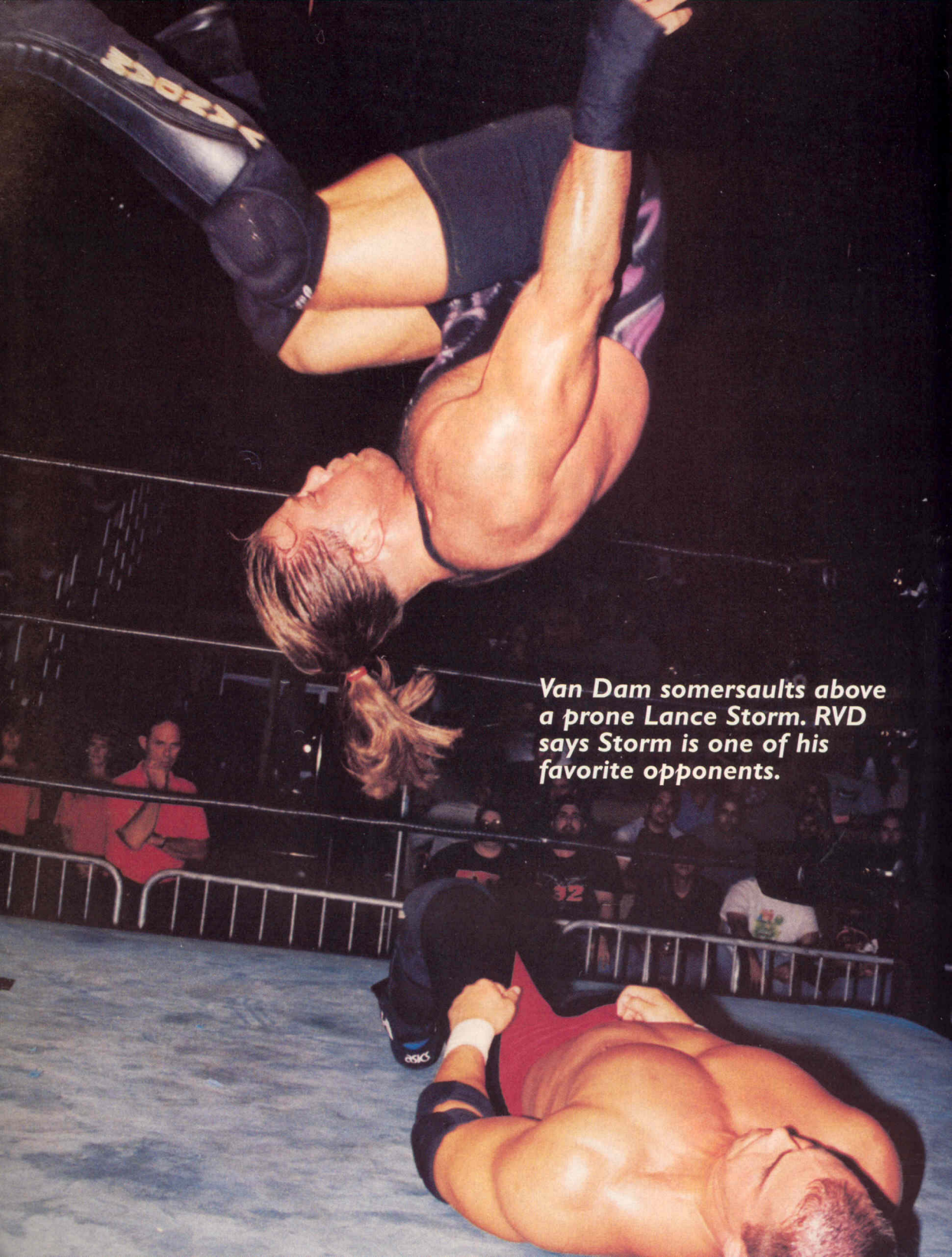


Van Dam somersaults above a prone Lance Storm. RVD says Storm is one of his favorite opponents.

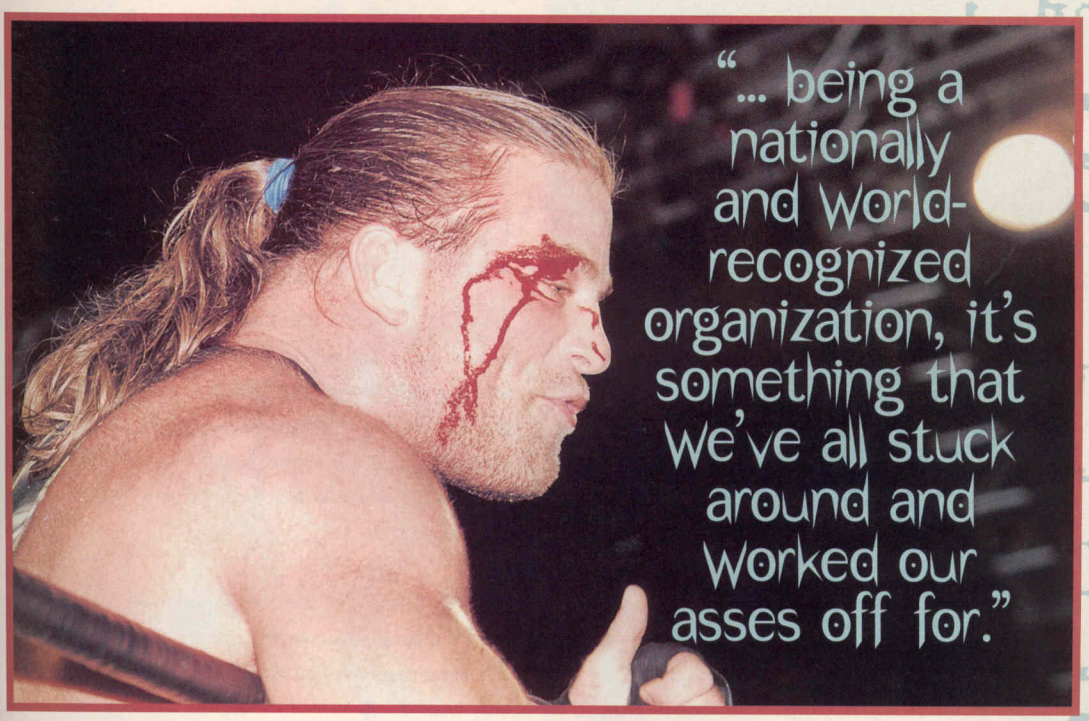
during those years your bones are still growing and you need to take advantage of that, especially if you are interested in growing like I was. I really felt these kids who were depriving themselves of nutrients were going to permanently stunt their growth. I stand behind that now.

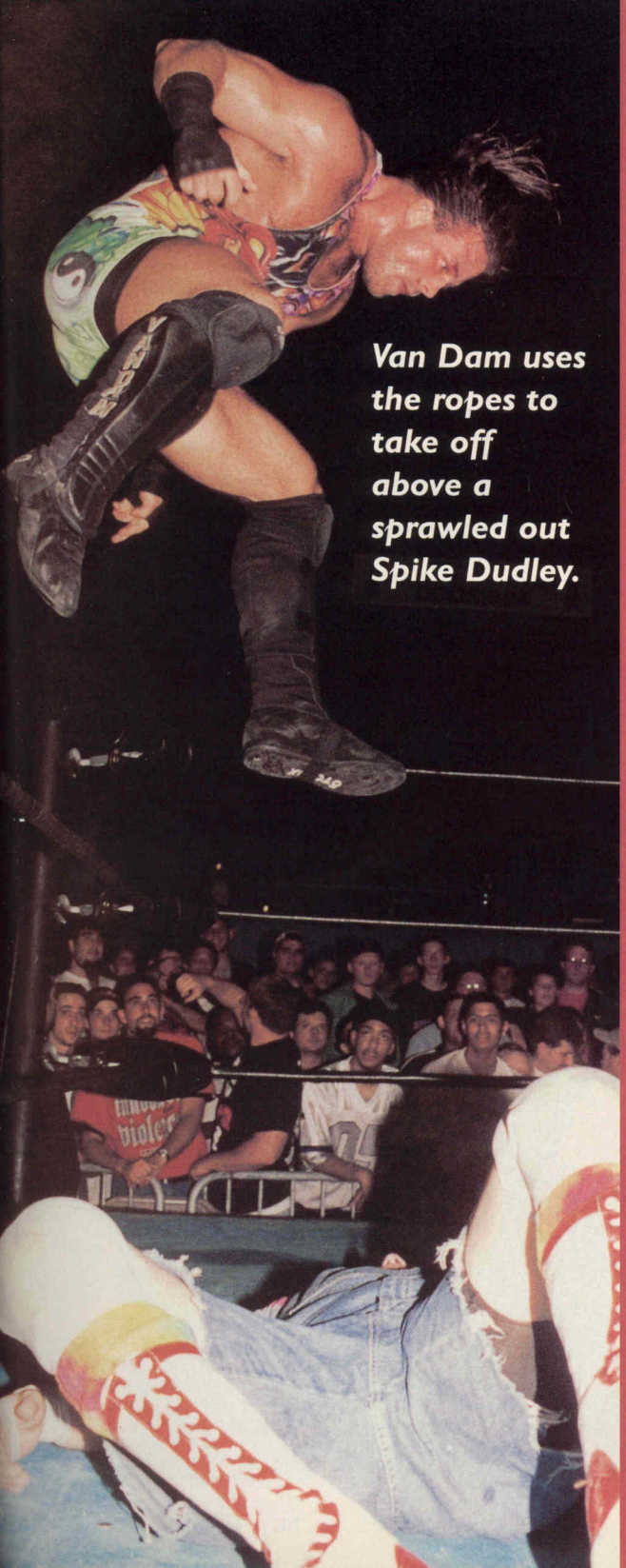
When I see the guys, I mean most of the guys that I know who were totally dedicated to high school wrestling, they are still built about the same. Anyway, I quit wrestling in school. I was kickboxing on my own for non-school activities, and I was working on my own trying to learn what I could to break into pro wrestling.

ECW: When you were doing a bunch of appearances with the World Wrestling Federation, you got a good taste of what the larger companies are like, even though ECW has become in the last two years a larger company itself. Did you ever entertain the idea of leaving ECW? Obviously now it's become less of a question because ECW has named itself as a third power and really come into its own.

> "... I left the WWF for ECW ... I left all Japan for ECW ... I've turned down a lot of offers to stick with ECW."

RVD: Exactly. Although all along I always had resisted believing that it could be possible. I mean, yeah, I left the WWF for ECW. True, I left All Japan for ECW. True, I've turned down a lot of offers to stick with ECW. And while a lot of people – and when I say people I mean anyone in the business or outside the ➧





Van Dam uses the ropes to take off above a sprawled out Spike Dudley.

business who studies it or follows it – anyone that shamed me for sticking with ECW, they might get a chance now to see what I did it for.

ECW: Yeah, now you've got magazines, video games, television, everything!

RVD: Yeah, it's not a laughing matter anymore.

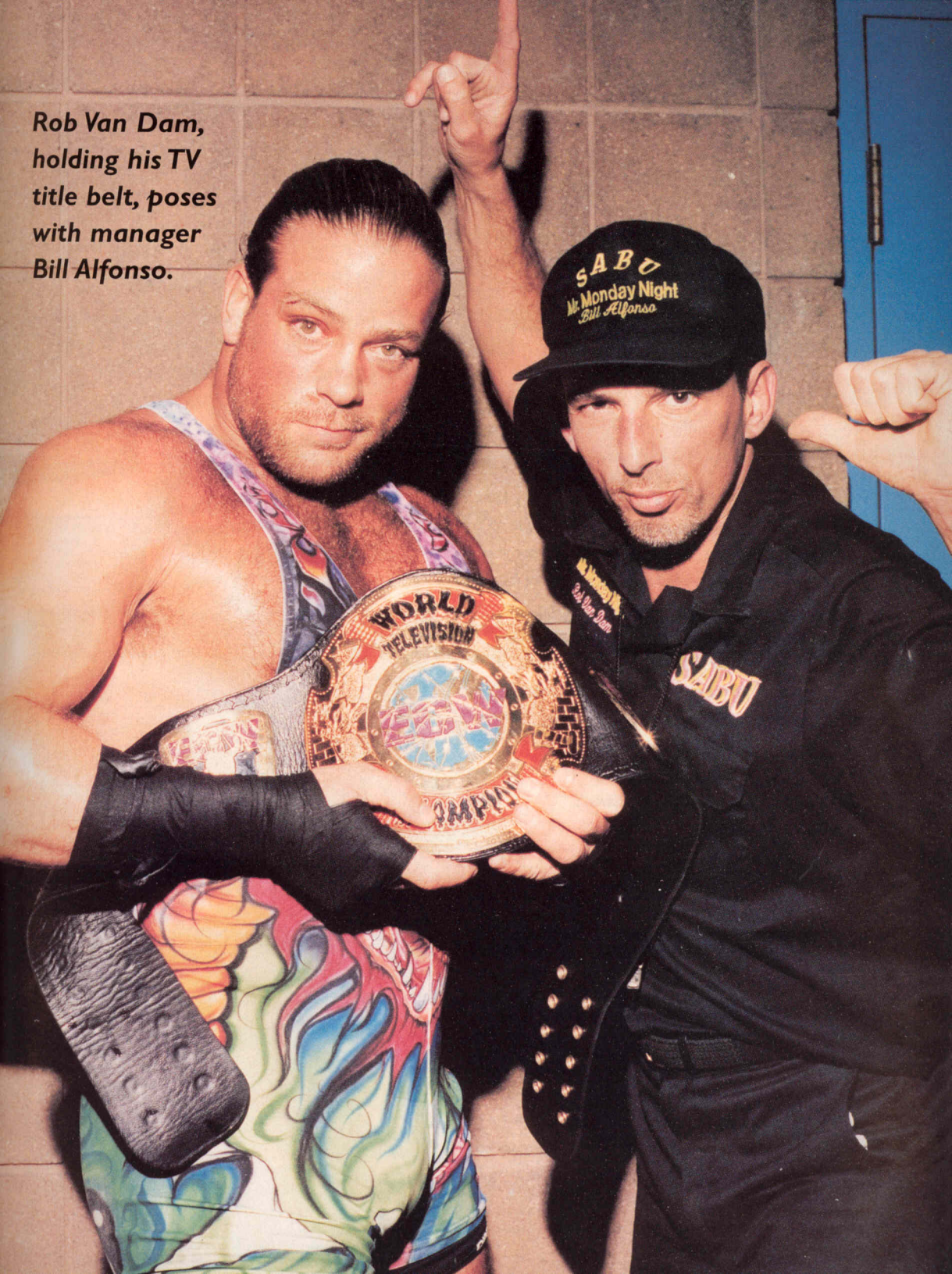
ECW: Since April 1998 your name has become synonymous with being the World TV Champion. It's become almost part of your ringwear. There are rumors that you could be the man to unseat Taz as world champion, and you haven't made a serious run at the belt yet. He's defeated Shane Douglas and Sabu, and he's cleanly destroyed all comers. Do you think you could be the next guy to walk up there and be the man to finally unseat Taz?

RVD: It's possible, but it's not in my immediate plans and it's nothing that I'm focused on. I hear a lot of fans asking me when I'm gonna go after Taz's belt. I really don't look at the television belt as being a secondary, lower level belt, but I realize in many eyes it must be because the question comes up a lot. But I'm just happy being the World Television Champion.

ECW: As they say, the champion makes the belt, not the other way around.

RVD: Well, thank you. I appreciate that. That was almost word for word what I was going to say. This title is a very prestigious title, but I suppose if I wore the TV title and the world heavyweight title belts down to the ring, I suppose that wouldn't be so bad, because we all know that I can already wear two belts at a time.

ECW: But you're still the same guy. Whether you're the TV champion or world champion, you still give the same performance. And that's basically what many fans assume.



Rob Van Dam, holding his TV title belt, poses with manager Bill Alfonso.

RVD: Yeah, the World Heavyweight Title belt would certainly be a nice metal to have. I don't focus my energies on going after it, although I do see it as maybe inevitable. It's definitely a big possibility that our paths will cross. And when they do, I'll be ready to kick Taz's ass and take his World Heavyweight Title belt. Then after that I'm going to have to put up with him coming after me again and again. Maybe I could just trade him for the TV belt, but I don't think so.

ECW: Who are your favorite guys to work with in the ring? In the past six months fans have seen some great show-stealing matches with Jerry Lynn.

RVD: Yeah, I really enjoy my matches with Jerry Lynn. I really like his style and how it mixes with my style to create what it does. In the same respect, I've had some really good matches with Lance Storm. As a matter of fact, Lance Storm and Jerry Lynn have a lot of great matches. They've both been having some kickass matches since I wrestled them on pay-per-view [at Heat Wave in July 1999]. And now that everybody's watching, they're saying they kick ass. Lance is definitely another of my favorites. Also, I've been wrestling Balls [Mahoney] and Spike Dudley. I've enjoyed all the matches I've had. I haven't wrestled Sabu in a long time.

ECW: Yeah, it's been a long time since those classic matches a couple years ago.

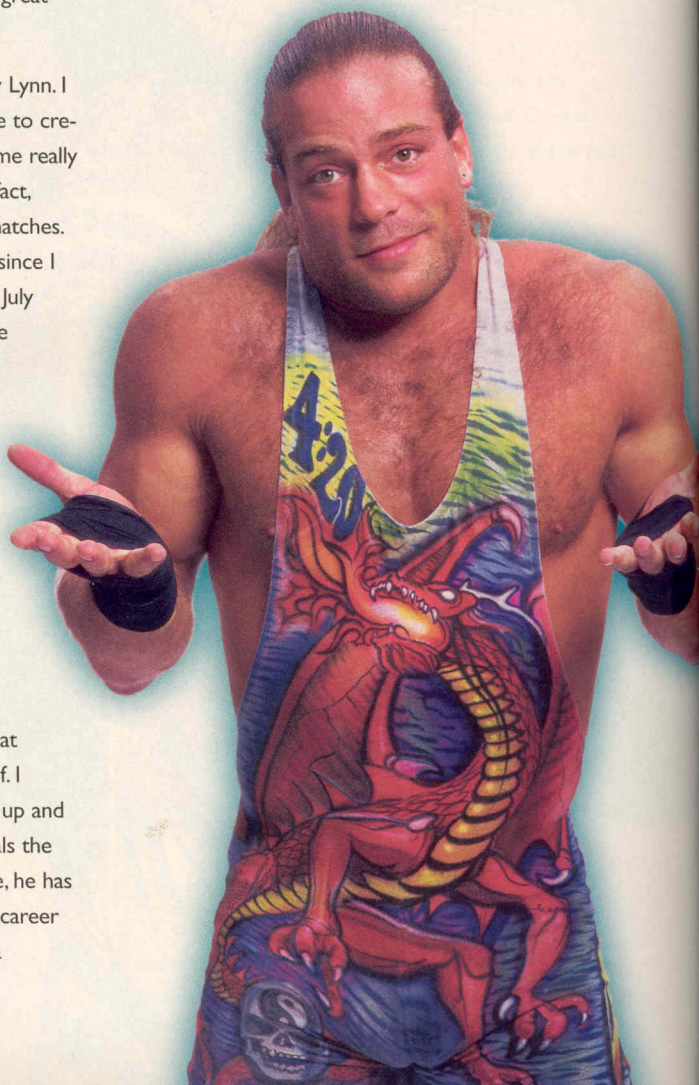
RVD: I really think he's about ready to test me. And I think I'm going to have to step up and put him in his place, 'cause I can't let him run off at the mouth or let him feel too good about himself. I mean, how can you not feel bad being all broken up and scarred up, and then you have a partner that steals the limelight like Rob Van Dam? But at the same time, he has been getting a little out of hand lately. And in my career so far he has been my favorite wrestler to have a match with.

ECW: So can fans expect some more great matches between the two of you in the next few months?

RVD: Yep, they can expect that. Because I do.

ECW: Is there anything left that you would like to say to the fans out there reading ECW Magazine?

RVD: I appreciate the support. I appreciate being appreciated. I've been sticking with ECW, and you've been sticking with ECW, and it's all about to pay off. ecw



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& Axl
AHONEY
ROTTEN

Super Freaky

Chair-swinging, fireball-throwing Balls Mahoney is one crazy grappler – and he's not afraid to say it

by Dave Scherer

What goes through a man's mind when he is up in the air, about to be powerbombed through a burning table that is laced with thumbtacks? What kind of man has this happen to him on almost a weekly basis and leaves the building at the end of the night telling himself that he has just done what he loves to do, and he gets paid for it to boot?

One might say that this man is crazy. But Extreme Championship Wrestling World Tag Team Champion Balls Mahoney is no dummy.

He routinely devours a 400-page novel during a 90-minute plane ride. A simple conversation with the man tells you he is a sharp guy. So why would a man like this go to the lengths that he does in the ring?

"I'm a masochist," Mahoney said recently. "I guess you could say I'm a sadomasochist. Not with my personal life or with my girl. But I get a kick out of it. I acted in high school. I was a thespian. I was in choir. So, being in front of people is a natural thing.

"I learned the art of bleeding when I was 15 years old," he continued. "I have probably had at least 1,000 stitches since [then] to close up wounds from wrestling. You can just say that I get off on it."

Mahoney's words might suggest he is merely a glutton for punishment. Delve deeper into the past of the 6-foot-2, 350-pound Mahoney, however, and you'll see the kinds of paradoxes that are fascinating upon examination. What would seem like logical assumptions prove to be just the opposite once you get to know Mahoney, the self-described "hardcore, chair-swinging freak."

This 27-year-old extreme brawler is, in some ways, anything but what he appears to be. While he lays his body on the line in the ring, outside of it he is an intelligent, well-spoken man who does what he does for the most honorable of reasons: He loves being a pro wrestler. When you add to that the fact that Mahoney is, to put it mildly, a non-conformist, the man you see with thumbtacks and lighter fluid comes into clearer focus.

"[ECW Heavyweight Champion] Taz calls ECW 'The Land of Misfit Wrestlers,' " Mahoney's tag team partner Spike Dudley said, "and in that land, Balls is certainly king."

A wrestling fan since his youth, the New Jersey native used to set up rings and act as a "gopher" along with his childhood friend Chris Candido. He had always wanted to be a pro wrestler. Through that work, he got to watch and appreciate legends like Bruiser Brody up close. Candido and Mahoney

would hop into the ring and, as Mahoney said, "get our asses handed to us." That was where he learned the importance of paying dues to the business.

"We got respect drilled into us," he said, "unlike some of these kids on the independents who don't have a clue."

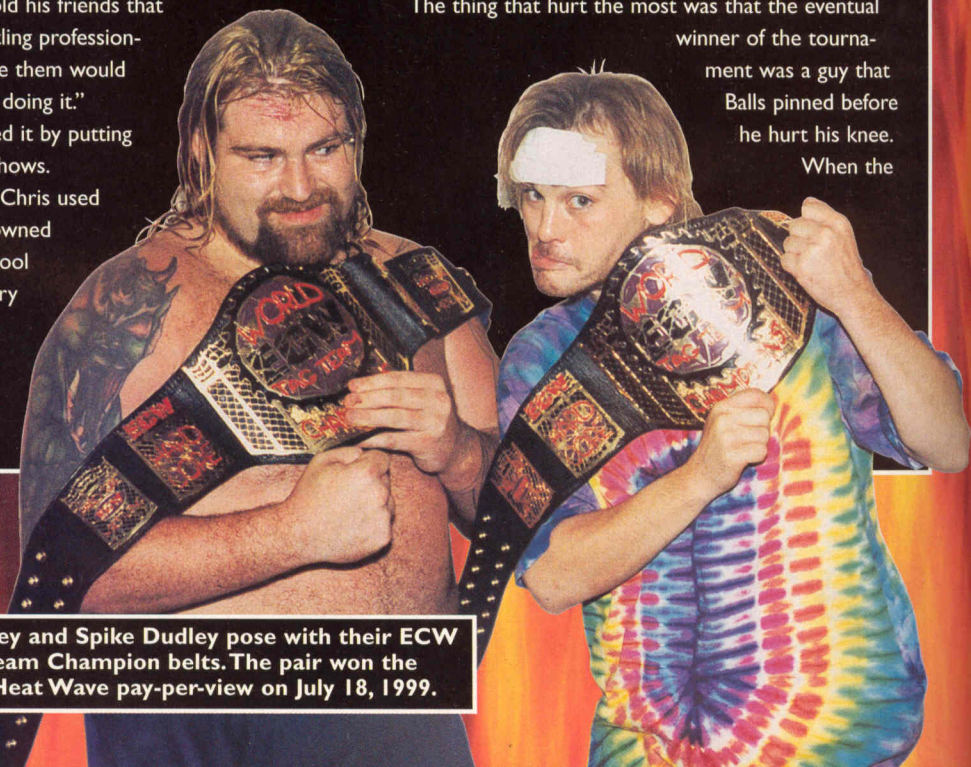
"(the ref) said, 'You're a menace.' Boom, I popped him. The guy that ran New Jersey amateur wrestling came out and I spit in his face."

With that love for the business, Mahoney made his pro debut while still in high school in 1987, at just 15 years old. At the time, he was a varsity amateur-style wrestler and a football player. He was also already the free spirit that he is today. At 17, he wrestled professionally under a mask on the independent circuit so that he could stay eligible to wrestle in high school. He told his friends that he was wrestling professionally, "and none them would believe I was doing it."

He proved it by putting on his own shows.

"Me and Chris used to rent (renowned wrestling school director) Larry Sharpe's ring every summer," Mahoney said. "We'd put it up in this park down the road. We'd bring Monster Factory students (from Sharpe's wrestling school) down and put on a show. We used to get 400 to 500 people at these shows. We wouldn't charge anything, but would go around with a hat for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, since MS helped us out. We'd sell sodas to pay for the ring. A lot of people came up and worked out. Axl (Rotten) did it. (Bam Bam) Bigelow did it. Junior and senior years, we did it right before double sessions, so I told the football team to come on down. They were like 'UHHHH!' watching me in the ring, bleeding. I was bleeding back then, too! It was kind of a kick! They said I would never make it. I see these kids now and laugh."

He continued to wrestle both professionally and as an amateur as he moved onto college, which is strictly prohibited by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Mahoney did not let that deter him. While at Middlesex County College in New Jersey, after an undefeated season, he won the national qualifying tournament, which he accomplished despite blowing his knee out in the tournament's final match. The thing that hurt the most was that the eventual winner of the tournament was a guy that Balls pinned before he hurt his knee. When the



Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley pose with their ECW World Tag Team Champion belts. The pair won the title at the Heat Wave pay-per-view on July 18, 1999.

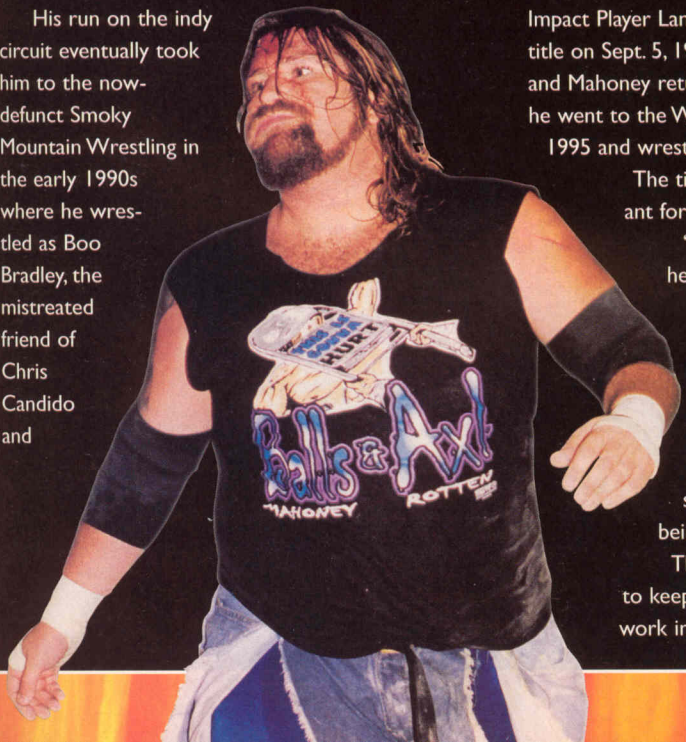
knee healed, he made one last run at amateur wrestling. He was in the semifinals of the national freestyle qualifying tournament and was wrestling a Pan American champion. He caught the guy in a legal headlock, which rolled into a crank, and broke the guy's back. He felt badly that it happened, but he used a legal move and didn't do anything wrong. The referee felt otherwise and disqualified him.

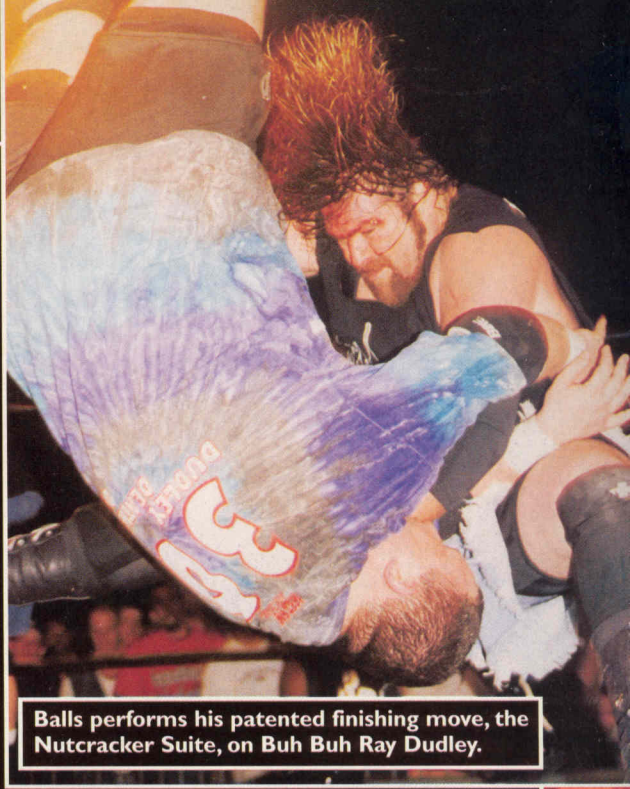
"I said, 'Ref, what the f---? I'm sorry I did that but ...' He said, 'You're a menace.' Boom, I popped him. The guy that ran New Jersey amateur wrestling came out and I spit in his face. My coaches brought me back to the locker room and my career ended. I was barred from all competition."

Though he knew he could have gone far in the amateur ranks, Mahoney realized it was time to start his full-time pro wrestling career.

From the beginning, Mahoney's style was always the hardest of hardcore. Wrestling on the indy circuit as Abbudah Singh, he had his first taste of fire in a match, once sending the legendary Abdullah The Butcher to the hospital after throwing a fireball in his face.

His run on the indy circuit eventually took him to the now-defunct Smoky Mountain Wrestling in the early 1990s where he wrestled as Boo Bradley, the mistreated friend of Chris Candido and Tammy Lynn Sytch. As Bradley, he gained valuable experience in wrestling on a regular basis. His top moment in SMW came when he beat current ECW Impact Player Lance Storm for the SMW television title on Sept. 5, 1994. SMW closed its doors, however, and Mahoney returned to the independent scene until he went to the World Wrestling Federation in late 1995 and wrestled as "Xanta Claus."



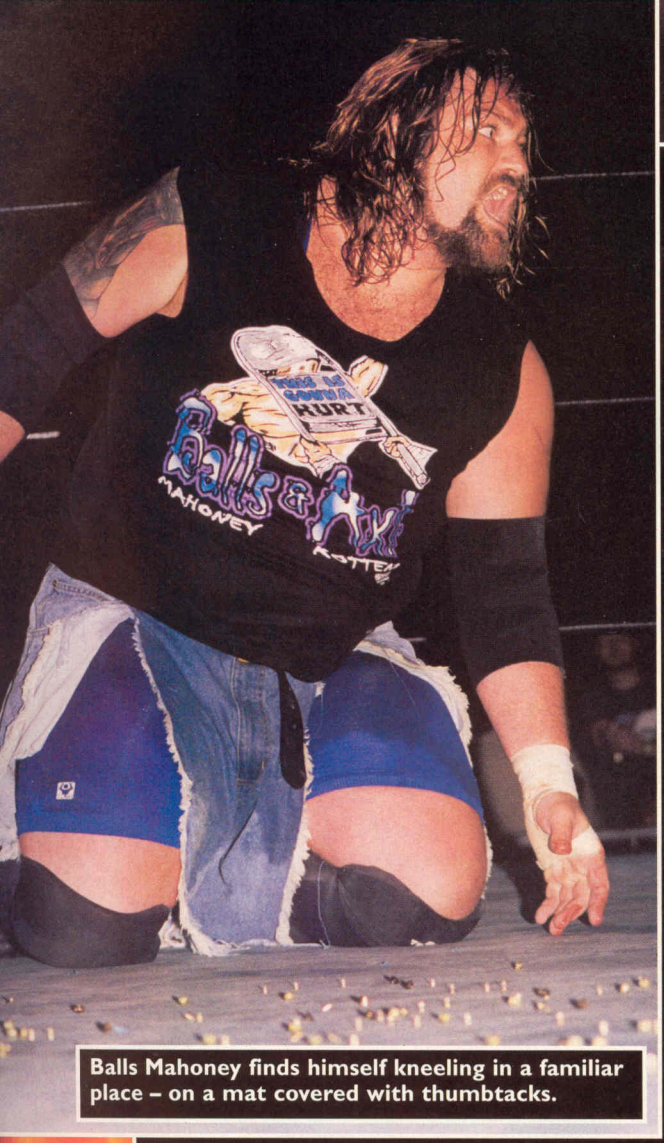


Balls performs his patented finishing move, the Nutcracker Suite, on Buh Buh Ray Dudley.

The time spent in the WWF was not pleasant for Mahoney.

"The WWF was a little messed up," he said. "It's a whole different world up there. You can't be yourself. You have to be corporate. Anybody that knows me knows I am not like that. You see the gimmick you see in the ring of Balls Mahoney ... that's me. I wear different colored socks. I don't care. I got yelled at for being who I was."

Then, they told him that they wanted to keep him around but would not let him work independent dates under the Bradley



Balls Mahoney finds himself kneeling in a familiar place – on a mat covered with thumbtacks.

or Singh names. He could work only as Xanta Claus, which was a quickie gimmick that he did around Christmas of 1995. By February there obviously was not much call on independent shows for an evil Father Christmas! That became a problem because the WWF did not have a new character planned for him for at least six months. Officials told him to work out until they were ready for him. He told them, "I will get fat," and that he wanted to wrestle. He asked if they could part ways, which the WWF agreed to. What makes him mad is that some news outlets reported that he was let go because he had an attitude problem, which wasn't the case.

"Someone had to put the propaganda out in the WWF office," Mahoney said. "I don't know who did it, but they can kiss my ass."

Like others who didn't seem to fit in anywhere else, the next logical step for Mahoney was ECW, where many under-appreciated talents before him had flourished. He would end up doing the same. He debuted as Balls Mahoney on Dec. 7, 1996, beating Devon Storm at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia. Like his work in the ring, Mahoney's name was so extreme that Pro Wrestling Illustrated magazine would not even mention it. Instead, the magazine referred to him as "B. Mahoney."

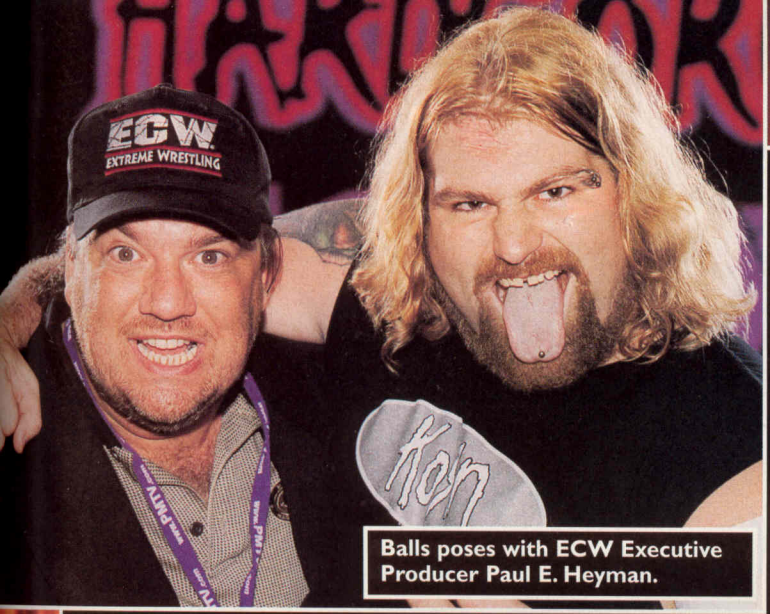
It was obvious from the beginning that despite being able to do moves like the Nutcracker Suite, The Ball Breaker, The New Jersey Jam (top rope legdrop) and The Frog Splash, Mahoney preferred the brawling, extreme moves such as a steel chair to the head or a fireball to the face.

Throughout 1998, Mahoney and Rotten were a hard luck team, repeatedly coming close to winning the titles only to be turned away at the last minute.

After winning his first match in ECW, it took some time for Mahoney to establish himself. He was always one step away in losing close singles matches. His fortunes began to change in mid-1997, when he started tag team wrestling with his old pal Axl Rotten. They spent the next year in wars with the Full Blooded Italians, Lance Storm and Chris Candido, New Jack and Spike Dudley, and the Dudley Boyz over the ECW tag titles.

Between tag bouts, Mahoney wrestled some fantastic singles matches against Rob Van Dam and Masato Tanaka. His focus, however, remained on a tag team belt.

Throughout 1998, Mahoney and Rotten were a



Balls poses with ECW Executive Producer Paul E. Heyman.

hard luck team, repeatedly coming close to winning the titles only to be turned away at the last minute. They were, in many ways, the people's tag team. Their hard work paid off in late 1998. When Mahoney did finally achieve his goal at the 1998 November to Remember pay-per-view, he teamed with former foe Tanaka due to Rotten's gall bladder injury. Rotten was there with them at ringside to counter the presence of Big Dick Dudley. The title run lasted less than a week, but Mahoney's taste for gold remained.

Once Rotten recovered, the team was back in full force until Rotten took a brief respite from the business in the summer of 1999. In the interim, Mahoney chose Little Spike Dudley as his foot soldier in his blood war against the Dudley Boyz, which culminated with Mahoney and Dudley winning the title at the Heat Wave pay-per-view on July 18, 1999. They found out very quickly that defending the title was more difficult than winning it because as champions they became marked men.

On July 31 at the ECW Arena, Mahoney's former friends Rotten and New Jack came for a shot at Mahoney and Dudley's gold. It was an extreme bloodletting that saw the four men practically kill each other. After retaining the titles, they found that gold is thicker than friendship as Jack and Rotten attacked the champions and left them in a heap, setting up the latest in the blood wars for the tag title.

Obviously, wrestling his style is not conducive to a long, healthy career, but to do anything else would go against what Mahoney is all about. He loves what he's doing and he loves where he's doing it. If that means extreme bloodletting, so be it.

"I hope to keep the belt as long as possible," Mahoney said. "I look forward to having a long and prosperous career in ECW. I want to stay here for the rest of my career if I can. If I have a choice, I'm never leaving ECW. This is my home." ecw

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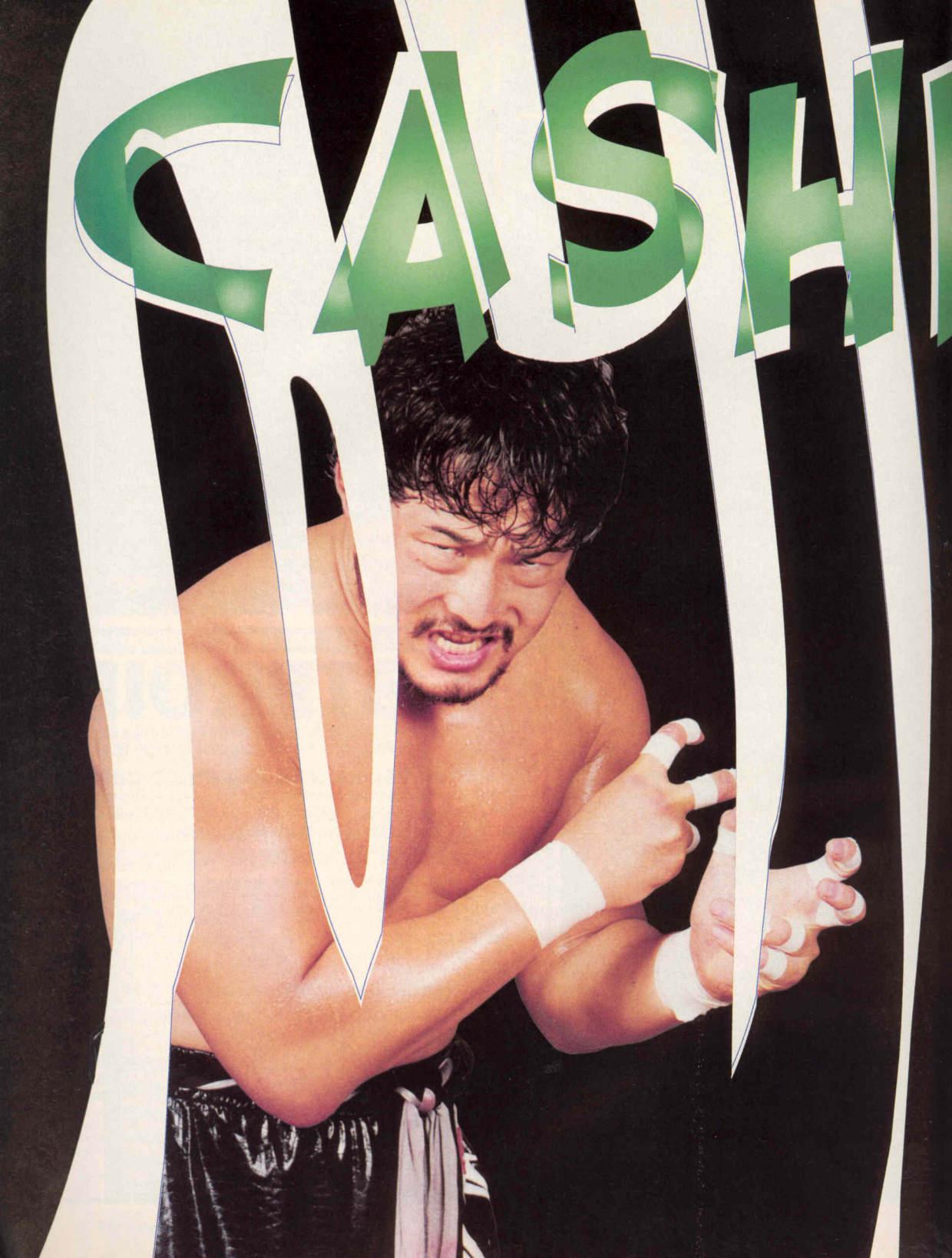
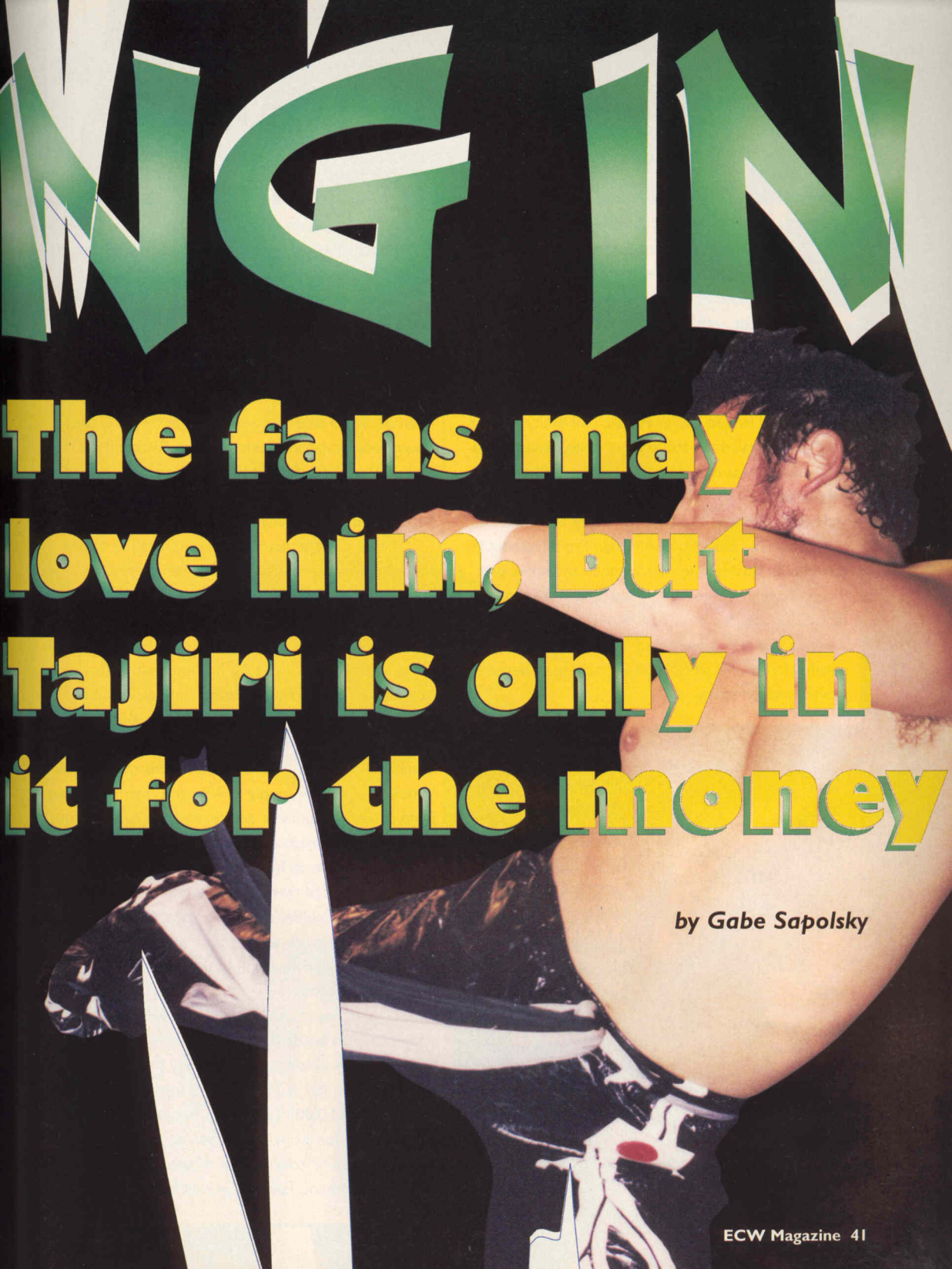

CASH

NG IN

The fans may love him, but Tajiri is only in it for the money

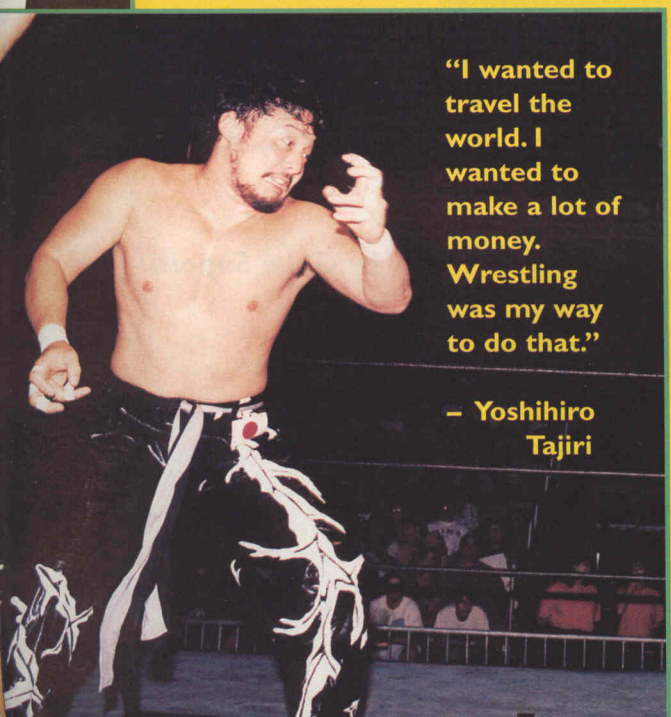
by Gabe Sapolsky



Tajiri takes international route to ECW and its fame, fortune

The dream for Yoshihiro Tajiri started in 1994, when he saw a newspaper ad for the International Wrestling Alliance dojo. It was the kind of ad that filled aspiring grapplers' minds with dreams of fame and glory that they saw in their childhood heroes.

For Tajiri, however, the dream was totally different. In 1994, Tajiri faced an important decision. His kickboxing skills had landed him at Hakata University in Japan. While he enjoyed the stiff style of collegiate competition, the business major had his mind on other goals. Tajiri dreamed of wealth and world travel. Amateur kickboxing was not the ticket to either. Tajiri had always been a casual fan of All Japan Pro Wrestling. He admired its hard-hitting, no-frills style and knew that his kickboxing background would help him in the pro ranks. Tajiri saw the IWA dojo as his route to the wealth and world travel he so desperately sought. He decided to give up school and kickboxing to become a professional wrestler.



"I wanted to travel the world. I wanted to make a lot of money. Wrestling was my way to do that."

– Yoshihiro Tajiri

"Wrestling is my way to become rich," Tajiri said. "I wanted to travel the world. I wanted to make a lot of money. Wrestling was my way to do that."

Money did not come easy for Tajiri, though. After being trained by Kendo Nagasaki at the IWA dojo, Tajiri paid his dues working the opening matches in the IWA. It was during this time that Victor Quinones first met and befriended Tajiri. Quinones – who has owned promotions all over the world and served as a talent coordinator in Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States' World Wrestling Federation – immediately recognized Tajiri's potential. Quinones since has become the most influential figure in Tajiri's career.

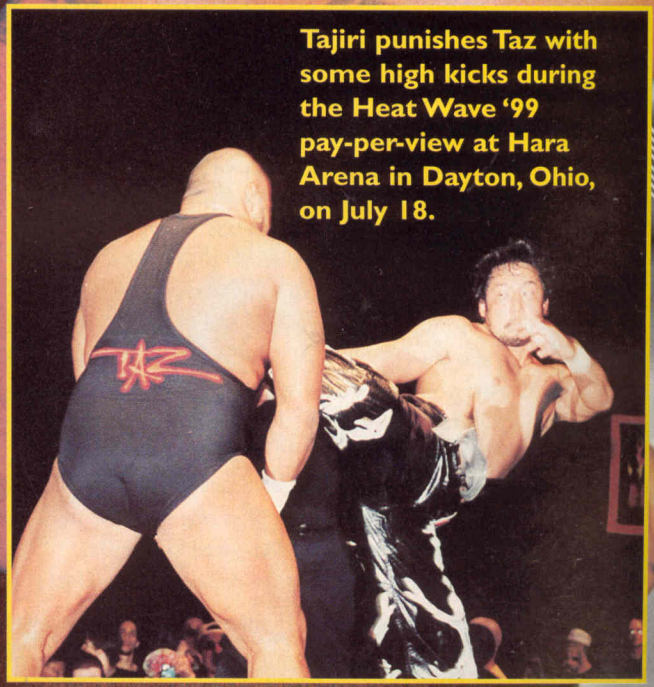
"I owe a lot to Victor," Tajiri said. "He has helped me many, many times. I would not be where I am today without Victor."

From IWA, Tajiri traveled to Big Japan Wrestling in 1996. While Tajiri would go on to achieve his greatest success in the ring in his home country, he learned how harsh the wrestling business can be behind the scenes. He witnessed how ruthless promoters can be with miniscule payoffs from Big Japan owner Shinya Kojika. Tajiri, practicing his trade behind a mask and known simply as Aquarius, was a long way from achieving the fame and fortune he had dreamed of. Tajiri put his frustration aside, however, realizing it was time for him to hone his wrestling skills. He knew the financial rewards would come later.

The 209-pounder's perseverance paid off once he abandoned the mask and started wrestling under his real name. He quickly became the No. 1 junior heavyweight in Big Japan.

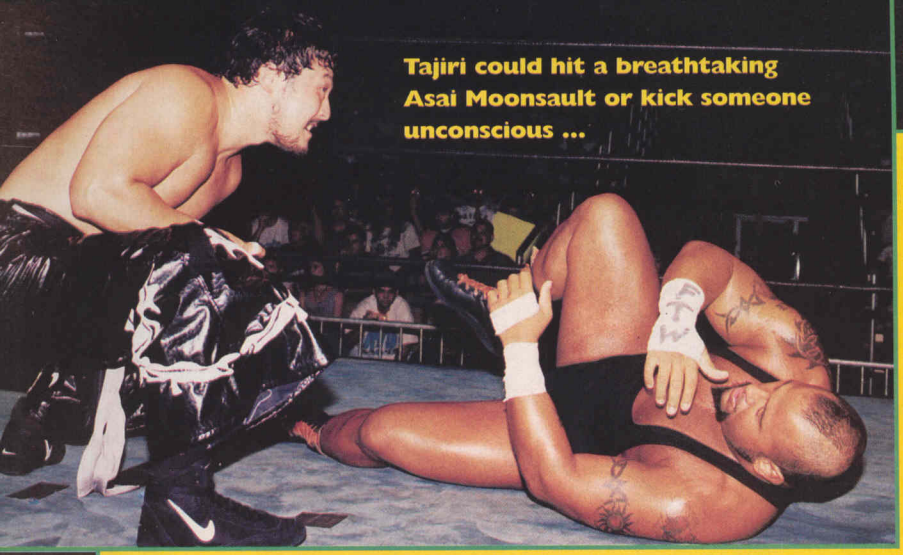
His first major career highlight came when he was chosen to battle New Japan Pro Wrestling's best junior, Shinjiro Otani, on the country's biggest show of the year on Jan. 4, 1997. His performance in front of more than 50,000 fans at the Tokyo Dome earned him an invitation from New Japan to participate in the biggest junior tournament of the year, The Super Junior Tournament. Tajiri fine-tuned his craft against

Fans, impressed with Tajiri's arsenal of moves, including the unique submission known as "The Tarantula," cheered Tajiri from city to city.



Tajiri punishes Taz with some high kicks during the Heat Wave '99 pay-per-view at Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio, on July 18.

TAJIRI



Tajiri could hit a breathtaking Asai Moonsault or kick someone unconscious ...

wrestlers such as Chris Jericho, Jushin Liger and Gran Naniwa.

"It was a great honor to be a part of that," Tajiri said. "I always want to test myself against the best. Jushin Liger really beat me up. I loved the challenge."

On June 7, 1997, Tajiri gained the biggest victory of his young career, teaming with Otani to defeat the duo of Liger and El Samurai in Yokohama at the Bunka Gym. But even while he was achieving his greatest fame to date, Tajiri still earned only small paychecks from Big Japan.

Despite the poor working conditions, Tajiri soon found himself in the middle of a violent feud against Japan's top independent tag team, Gedo and Jedo. The feud would culminate in a grueling one-hour draw. As tensions continued to rise behind the scenes, Tajiri captured the inaugural Big Japan Junior Heavyweight Tournament with a victory over Gedo on Feb. 3, 1998.

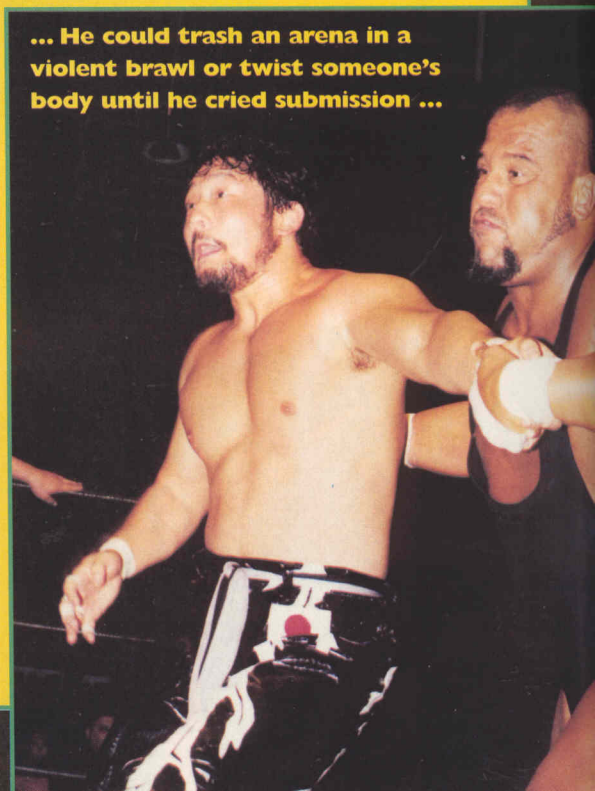
At that point, Tajiri had reached his limit with Kojika. He did something unheard of in Japan for an up-and-coming wrestler. Tajiri told Kojika in not so polite terms that he quit. He quickly gained a reputation as a rebel in his home country before Quinones booked him in Mexico.

While Tajiri was excited that he had the opportunity to travel, he was still dreaming of a big payday. He put his aspirations for cash aside and decided he would use Mexico to further develop his ring skills. The high-flier quickly adapted to the fast-paced lucha style, working for Empresa Mexicana de Lucha Libre (EMLL) and FULL out of Monterrey, Mexico.

It was in Monterrey that he first met the man who would become his top rival, Super Crazy. The two dazzled fans with their intense, lightning quick, daredevil bouts. Tajiri had completed his learning process. He could wrestle Japanese, Mexican or American styles with equal ease. He could hit a breathtaking Asai Moonsault or kick someone unconscious. He could trash an arena in a violent brawl or twist someone's body until he cried submission. The time had come for Tajiri to realize his dream and make some money.

Enter Extreme Championship Wrestling.

At the beginning of 1999, Quinones recommended Tajiri and Crazy to ECW Executive Producer Paul



... He could trash an arena in a violent brawl or twist someone's body until he cried submission ...

The rebel in Tajiri had resurfaced, this time in front of the camera.

Heyman. Upon viewing a videotape, Heyman was quick to welcome them to his roster. A clean-cut Tajiri immediately gained the respect of the hard-to-impress ECW faithful as the feud against Crazy continued. The two exchanged wins in what has been called the best series of bouts seen this year in the United States. Fans, impressed with Tajiri's arsenal of moves, including the unique submission known as "The Tarantula," cheered Tajiri from city to city. Tajiri, slowly becoming more aggressive in the ring in a feud against the FBI of Little Guido and Sal E. Graziano, had become a legitimate contender for any belt. When Tajiri defeated the tough Guido at the Hardcore Heaven pay-per-view on May 16, 1999, he had solidified himself as a force in ECW.

"Mexico, United States, Japan are all like home to me," said Tajiri, who is fluent in Spanish and quickly picking up English. "ECW pays me the best though. ECW is the best company I have worked for."

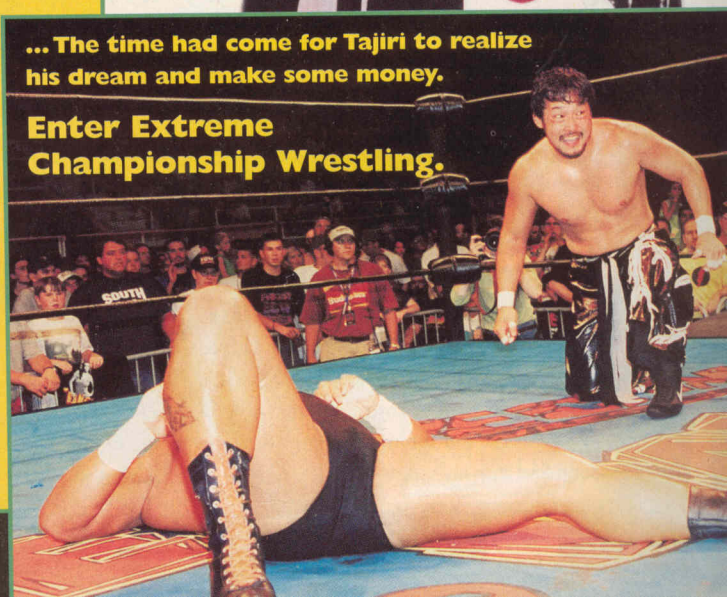
Tajiri's dream was becoming reality. He was traveling the world. He was beginning to make some serious money, but Tajiri's lust for cash was nowhere close to being satisfied.

Steve Corino, who had entered ECW early in 1999, had kept a close eye on Tajiri. Corino, who claims to hate hardcore wrestling in favor of the outdated, old school style, immediately targeted world champion Taz. Corino knew his deep pockets could persuade the dangerous Tajiri to go after Taz.

On July 3, 1999, in Queens, N.Y., at the infamous Madhouse Of Extreme, Tajiri turned his back on the fans he had just made by taking Corino's hefty payoff and attacking Taz. Three fierce kicks to the head reduced the Brooklyn native to his knees. One more formidable strike to Taz's cranium left the world champion helpless on the mat. The rebel in Tajiri had resurfaced, ➧

... The time had come for Tajiri to realize his dream and make some money.

Enter Extreme Championship Wrestling.



TAJIRI

this time in front of the camera.

"In Queens you saw the real Yoshihiro Tajiri," said Corino, who has also enlisted Jack Victory. "He never cared about the fans. He's always been in it just for the money. He is like a great old-school wrestler. He just beats up his opponents and gets his payday. He's gonna defeat Taz for the world title and give it to me 'cause I paid him."

On July 18 at the Heat Wave '99 pay-per-view in Dayton, Ohio, Tajiri not only failed to defeat Taz for the world title, but he found himself mutilated by "The Human Suplex Machine." In a rare no-contest finish, Taz stuffed barbed wire in Tajiri's mouth before applying the dreaded Tazmission.

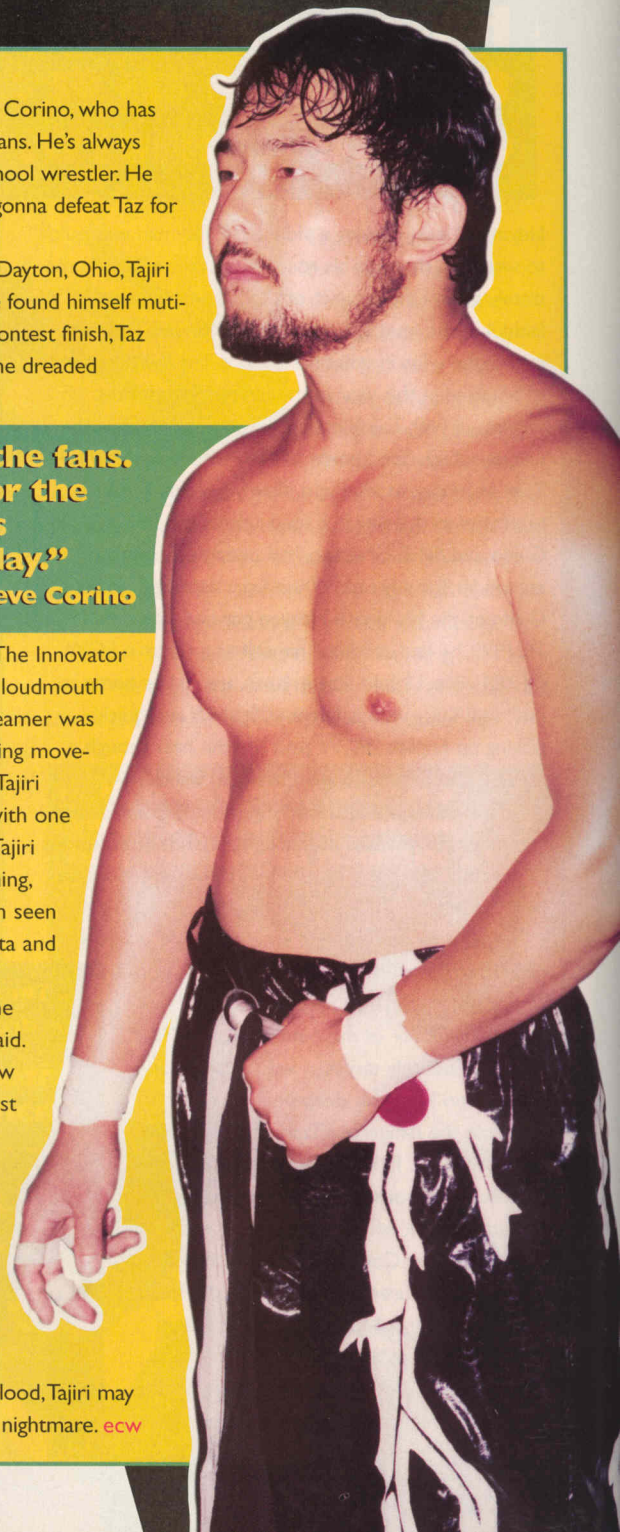
"(Tajiri) never cared about the fans. He's always been in it just for the money... He just beats up his opponents and gets his payday."
– Steve Corino

Tajiri also has found himself another enemy in "The Innovator Of Violence," Tommy Dreamer. Corino, in his typical loudmouth form, had been running down Dreamer because Dreamer was one of the men who originated the hardcore wrestling movement. On July 31 at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia, Tajiri revealed just how dark and callous his soul can be with one sudden, shocking action. In a moment of pure peril, Tajiri blinded Dreamer's girlfriend, Francine. Without warning, Tajiri orally unleashed a green mist that has not been seen in the United States since the days of The Great Muta and The Great Kabuki in the 1980s.

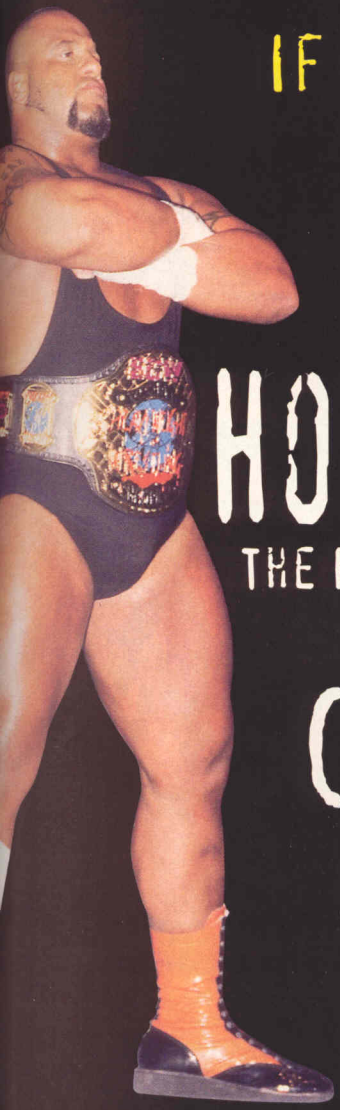
"I might not have been able to wrestle during the summer because of my herniated discs," Dreamer said. "I vow this to Steve Corino and Tajiri: I'm gonna show them what hardcore wrestling is all about in the most painful way that I can imagine. I'm gonna send them straight to hardcore hell."

As ECW continues to grow in stature, it appears that Tajiri has realized his dream. He has lived and traveled all over the world. He has become a star everywhere from the United States to Mexico, from Puerto Rico to Japan. He is making more money than at any other time in his life.

With Taz and Tommy Dreamer now out for his blood, Tajiri may soon find that his selfish dream is actually a hardcore nightmare. ecw



DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HARDCORE?



IF YOU WANT TO BE EXTREME

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES!

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HOUSE OF HARDCORE

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ECW WRESTLING

TNN highlights

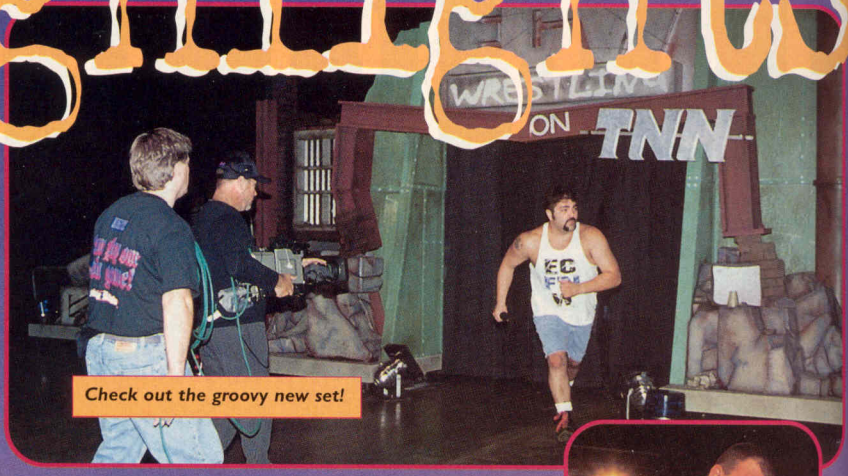
ECW is on the air and the face of wrestling on television will never be the same again.

Extreme Championship Wrestling is now on The Nashville Network, and its first taping of bouts for potential use on the TNN show was in Toledo, Ohio. The show was a typical ECW event, with plenty of action, fan response and good, old-fashioned hardcore wrestling.

Nearly everyone in the company appeared in Toledo, including Taz, Rob Van Dam, Lance Storm and the recently departed Dudley Boyz.

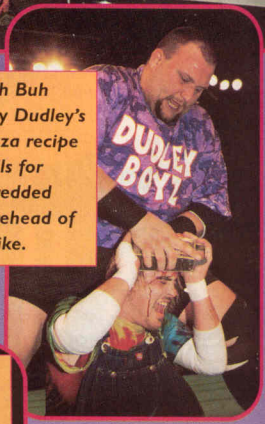
The show featured a new set and a new announcer, as Joel Gertner came out and informed Joey Styles that he would be joining Styles as his broadcast partner. Event highlights included the Dudley Boyz match against Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley and the "Dream Partner" tag match in which Rob Van Dam and Justin Credible took on Jerry Lynn and Sabu.

With the typical craziness that is an ECW show, including two flaming tables, the debut telecast of ECW on TNN set the tone for things to come. Be sure to tune in to TNN on Friday nights at 8 p.m. Eastern and Pacific to check out what ECW will do next. ecw



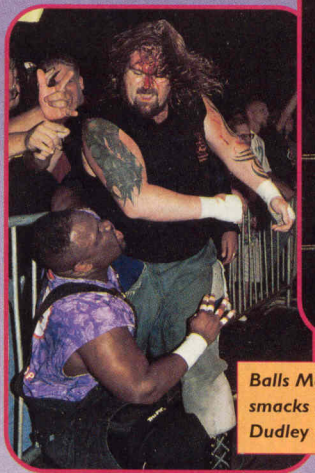
Check out the groovy new set!

¡No me toques, estoy en fuego!

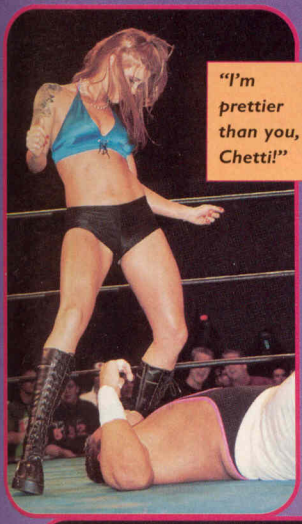


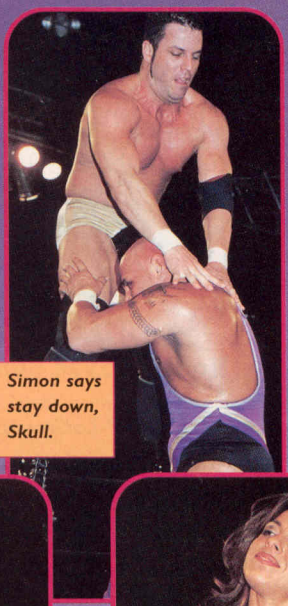
Buh Buh Ray Dudley's pizza recipe calls for shredded forehead of Spike.

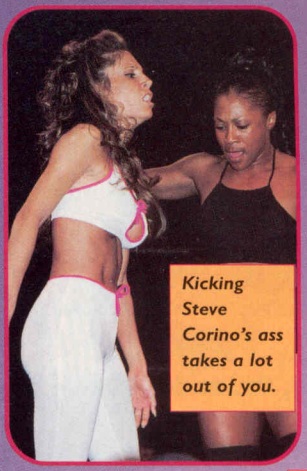
Nova swats away the pesky Little Guido.

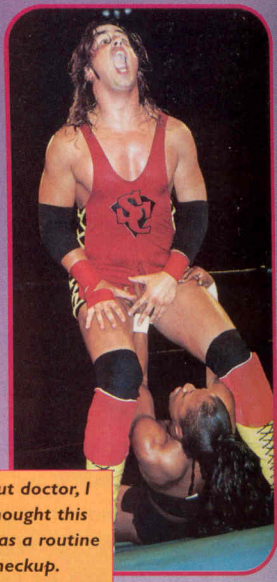

Balls Mahoney smacks D-Von Dudley out of ECW.

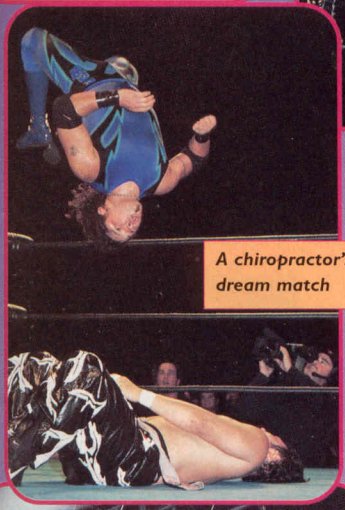
Rhino drops Tom Marquez on the cutting room floor.

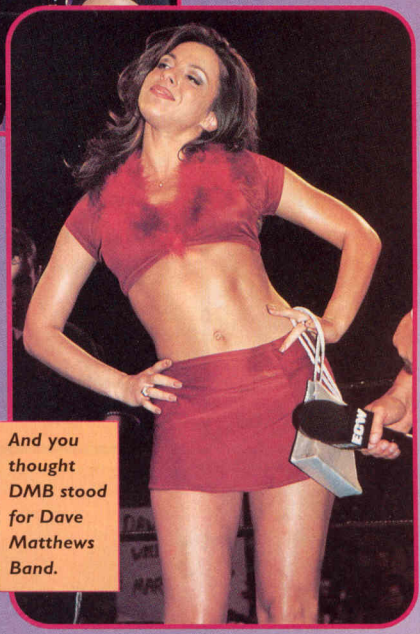

"I'm prettier than you, Chetti!"

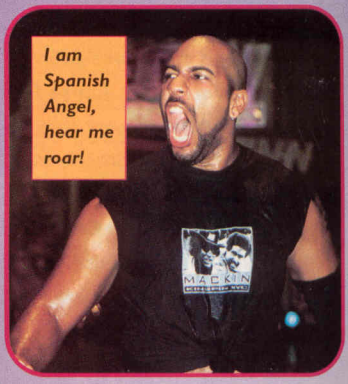

Simon says stay down, Skull.

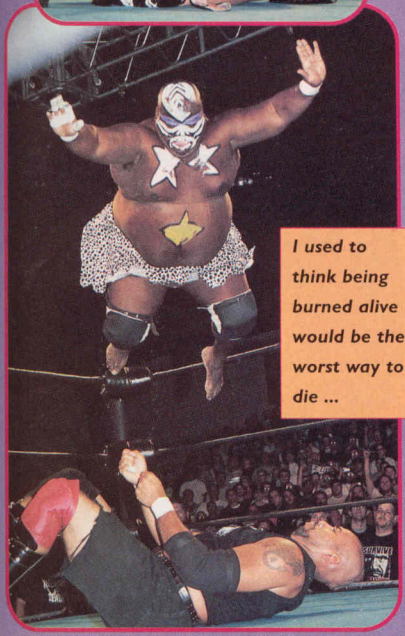

Kicking Steve Corino's ass takes a lot out of you.


But doctor, I thought this was a routine checkup.


A chiropractor's dream match


And you thought DMB stood for Dave Matthews Band.


I am Spanish Angel, hear me roar!


I used to think being burned alive would be the worst way to die ...

That's not just the coolest ... oh, never mind.

Get a haircut or I drop you!

ECW in the HOUSE

Keep track of your favorite ECW wrestlers' performances with these house show results from around the United States. For pay-per-view coverage, see pages 56-71 of this issue. For up-to-date results from all recent shows, visit www.ecwwrestling.com.

July 11, 1999
Zuma Beach Club, Orlando, Fla.

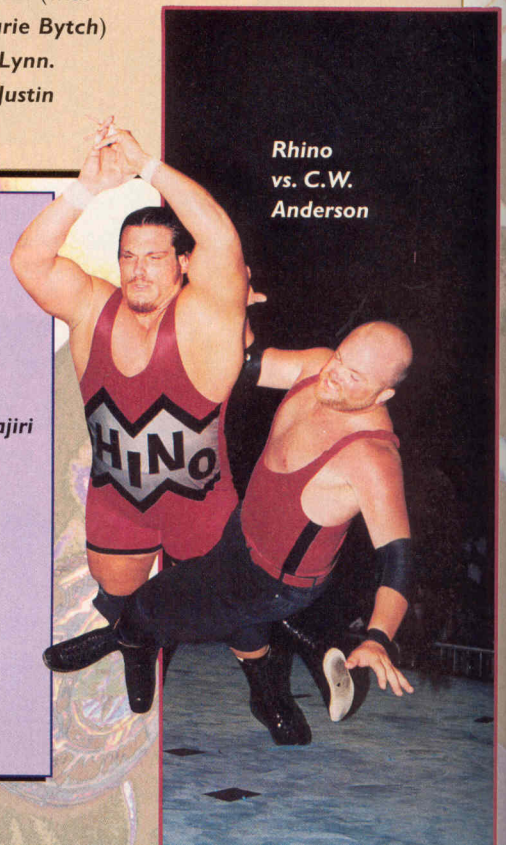
- *Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso* and *Rhino* def. *Simon Diamond* and *Spanish Angel.*
- *Steve Corino* def. *Wild Bill Wiles.*
- *Spike Dudley* def. *Steve Corino.*
- *Yoshihiro Tajiri* def. *Little Guido* and *Super Crazy.*
- *Jerry Lynn* def. *Lance Storm.*
- *Danny Doring* and *Amish Roadkill* vs. *Chris Chetti* and *Nova* went to a no-contest when *The Dudley Boyz* interfered.
- *The Dudley Boyz* def. *Danny Doring* and *Amish Roadkill* and *Chris Chetti* and *Nova.*
- *The Unnamed Woman* def. *Jason.*
- *Sabu* def. *Justin Credible.*

July 22, 1999
Houma Civic Center, Houma, La.

- *Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso* def. *Simon Diamond.*
- *Tom Marquez* def. *C.W. Anderson.*
- *Danny Doring* and *Amish Roadkill* def. *Chris Chetti* and *Nova.*
- *Little Guido* def. *Super Crazy.*
- *Balls Mahoney* and *Little Spike Dudley* def. *The Dudley Boyz* to retain the tag titles.
- *Francine* and *One Man Gang* def. *Steve Corino* and *Jack Victory.*
- *Lance Storm* (with *Dawn Marie Bytch*) def. *Jerry Lynn.*
- *Sabu* def. *Justin Credible.*

July 23, 1999
Alario Sports Center, New Orleans

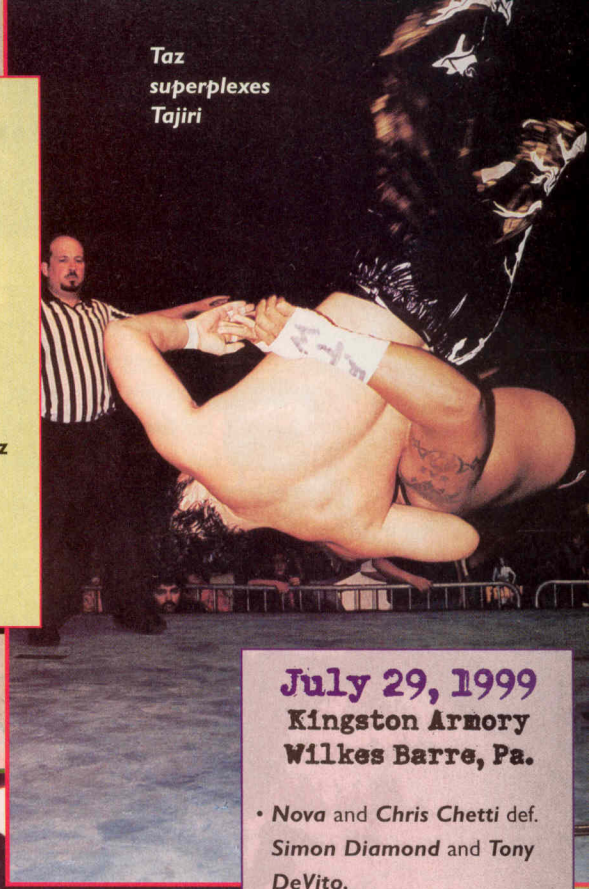
- *Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso* def. *Simon Diamond.*
- *Jerry Lynn* def. *C.W. Anderson.*
- *Little Guido* def. *Super Crazy.*
- *Yoshihiro Tajiri* def. *Tony DeVito.* After the match, *Taz* challenged *Tajiri* to a match later in the show.
- *Justin Credible* and *Lance Storm* def. *Nova* and *Chris Chetti.*
- *Sabu* and *Danny Doring* fought to a no-contest.
- *Steve Corino* def. *Wild Bill Wiles.*
- *Tommy Dreamer* (with *Francine*) def. *Steve Corino* (with *Jack Victory*).
- *Spike Dudley* and *Balls Mahoney* def. *The Dudley Boyz.*
- *Sabu* def. the *One Man Gang.*
- *Taz* def. *Yoshihiro Tajiri* to retain the ECW world title.



Rhino vs. C.W. Anderson

July 24, 1999
Alexandria Riverfront Center
Alexandria, La.

- ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill*** def. ***C.W. Anderson*** and ***Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso***
- ***Little Guido*** def. ***Super Crazy***
- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** def. ***Simon Diamond*** and ***Tony DeVito***
- ***Jerry Lynn*** def. ***Lance Storm***
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Spike Dudley*** def. ***The Dudley Boyz*** to retain the ECW tag team title.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** def. ***Steve Corino***
- ***Sabu*** def. ***Justin Credible***
- ***Taz*** def. ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** to retain the ECW world title.

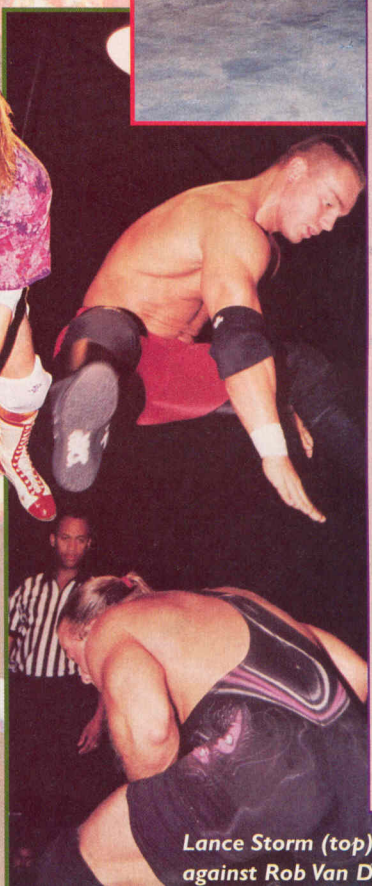


Taz superplexes Tajiri

July 25, 1999
Riverside Centroplex
Baton Rouge, La.

- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** def. ***Simon Diamond*** and ***Tony DeVito***
- ***Super Crazy*** def. ***Little Guido.***
- ***Steve Corino*** def. ***Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso.***
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Spike Dudley*** def. ***Amish Roadkill*** and ***Danny Doring*** to retain the ECW tag team title.
- ***Jerry Lynn*** def. ***Lance Storm***
- ***Justin Credible*** def. ***D-Von Dudley***
- ***Sabu*** def. ***One Man Gang***
- ***Taz*** def. ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** to retain the ECW world title.

Buh Buh Ray Dudley hoists Spike



Lance Storm (top) against Rob Van Dam

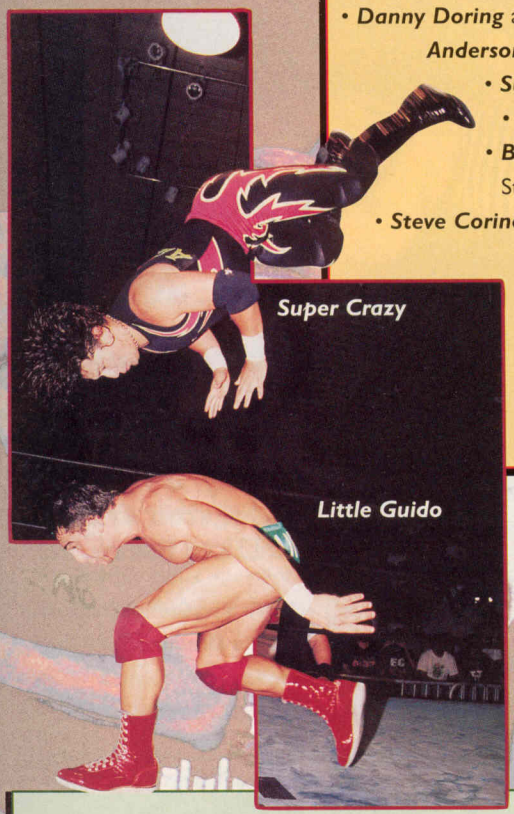
July 29, 1999
Kingston Armory
Wilkes Barre, Pa.

- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** def. ***Simon Diamond*** and ***Tony DeVito.***
- ***Super Crazy*** def. ***Little Guido.***
- ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill*** def. ***Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso*** and ***C.W. Anderson.***
- ***Lance Storm***, with ***Dawn Marie Bytch*** def. ***Jerry Lynn.***
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Spike Dudley*** def. ***The Dudley Boyz*** in a Wilkes Barre Street Fight to retain the ECW tag team title.
- ***Sabu*** def. ***Justin Credible*** in a non-sanctioned Death Match.
- ***Taz*** def. ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** (with ***Steve Corino, Rhino*** and ***Jack Victory***) to retain the ECW world title.

ECW in the HOUSE

July 30, 1999
Delaware State University, Dover, Del.

- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** def. ***Simon Diamond*** and ***Tony DeVito***
- ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill*** def. ***Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso*** and ***C.W. Anderson***
- ***Super Crazy*** def. ***Little Guido.***
- ***Lance Storm*** def. ***Jerry Lynn*** after ***Justin Credible*** interfered.
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Spike Dudley*** def. ***The Dudley Boyz*** in a Dover Street Fight to retain the ECW tag team title.
- ***Steve Corino*** challenged ***Tommy Dreamer***, who was signing autographs with ***Francine***. Dreamer said it was too hot to wrestle, and brought ***Wild Bill Wiles*** in to fight Corino. Francine got involved and pinned Corino after a bronco buster and DDT.
- ***Sabu*** def. ***Justin Credible*** with a facebuster through a table after ***Jerry Lynn*** interfered and caned Credible.
- ***Taz*** def. ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** to retain the ECW World Title.

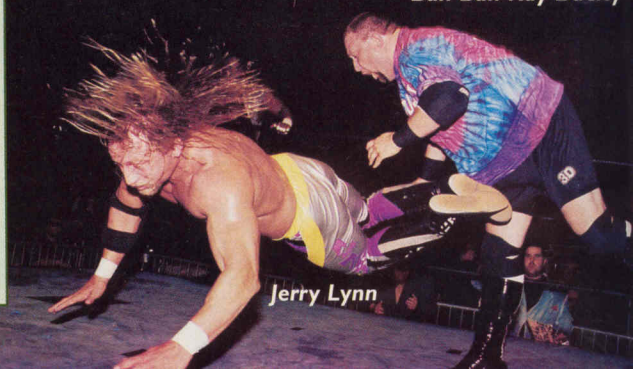


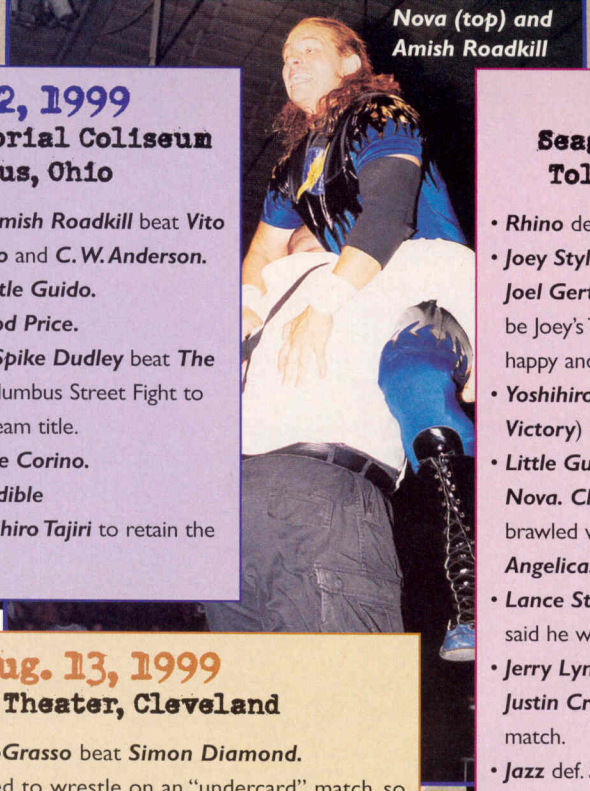
Aug. 5, 1999
Dothan Civic Center, Dothan, Ala.

- ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill*** def. ***Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso*** and ***C.W. Anderson.***
- ***Super Crazy*** def. ***Little Guido.***
- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** def. ***Simon Diamond*** and ***Tony DeVito***.
- ***Jerry Lynn*** def. ***Tracey Smothers*** (with ***Tommy Rich***).
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Spike Dudley*** def. ***The Dudley Boyz*** in a Dothan Street Fight to retain the ECW tag team title.
- ***Francine*** def. ***Steve Corino.***
- ***Sabu*** def. ***Justin Credible*** in an Extreme Death Match.
- ***Taz*** def. ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** to retain the ECW world title.

Aug. 6, 1999
Boutwell Auditorium, Birmingham, Ala.

- ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill*** def. ***Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso*** and ***C.W. Anderson.***
- ***Super Crazy*** def. ***Little Guido.***
- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** def. ***Simon Diamond*** and ***Tony DeVito.***
- ***Jerry Lynn*** def. ***Tracey Smothers*** (with ***Tommy Rich***).
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Spike Dudley*** def. ***The Dudley Boyz*** in a Birmingham Street Fight to retain the ECW tag team title.
- ***Francine*** def. ***Steve Corino***.
- ***Sabu*** def. ***Justin Credible*** in an Extreme Death Match.
- ***Taz*** def. ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** to retain the ECW world title.





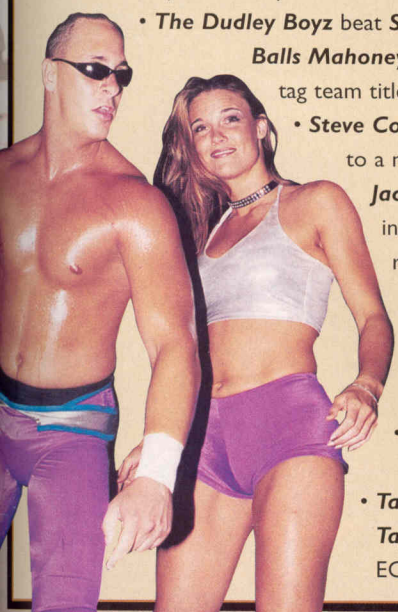
Nova (top) and Amish Roadkill

Aug. 12, 1999
Veterans Memorial Coliseum Columbus, Ohio

- *Danny Doring* and *Amish Roadkill* beat *Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso* and *C. W. Anderson.*
- *Super Crazy* beat *Little Guido.*
- *Lance Storm* beat *Rod Price.*
- *Balls Mahoney* and *Spike Dudley* beat *The Dudley Boyz* in a Columbus Street Fight to retain the ECW tag team title.
- *Francine* pinned *Steve Corino.*
- *Sabu* beat *Justin Credible*
- *Taz* choked out *Yoshihiro Tajiri* to retain the ECW world title.

Aug. 13, 1999
Agora Theater, Cleveland

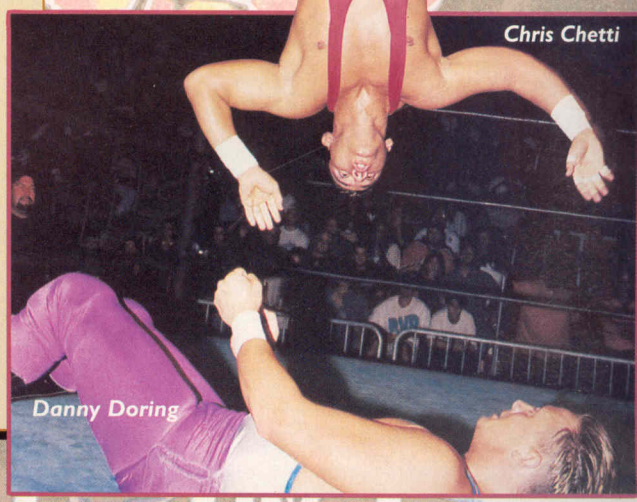
- *Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso* beat *Simon Diamond.*
- *Lance Storm* refused to wrestle on an "undercard" match, so *Rhino* took his place against *Super Crazy.*
- *Super Crazy* beat *Rhino.*
- *Little Guido* beat *Nova* with help from *Big Sal E. Graziano.*
- *Wild Bill Wiles* beat a newcomer. *New Jack* came out and beat up Bill, then pinned him.
- *The Dudley Boyz* beat *Spike Dudley* and *Balls Mahoney* to regain the ECW tag team title for the seventh time.
- *Steve Corino* and *Jazz* fought to a no-contest when *Jack Victory* got involved. *Francine* ran in and evened the odds for Jazz, much to the delight of the crowd.
- *Sabu* beat *Justin Credible.*
- *Taz* beat *Yoshihiro Tajiri* to retain the ECW world title.



Danny Doring and Angelica

Aug. 14, 1999
Seagate Convention Center Toledo, Ohio (TNN Taping)

- *Rhino* def. *Tom Marquez.*
- *Joey Styles* came out and warmed up the crowd.. *Joel Gertner* came out and announced he would be Joey's TNN broadcast partner. Joey was not happy and chased Gertner to the back.
- *Yoshihiro Tajiri* (with *Steve Corino* and *Jack Victory*) def. *Super Crazy.*
- *Little Guido* (with *Big Sal E. Graziano*) def. *Nova. Chris Chetti* came out for the save and brawled with *Danny Doring, Amish Roadkill* and *Angelica.*
- *Lance Storm* came out with *Dawn Marie* and said he was injured so he couldn't wrestle.
- *Jerry Lynn* and *Sabu* def. *Rob Van Dam* and *Justin Credible* in a "Dream Partner" tag team match.
- *Jazz* def. *Steve Corino* (with *Jack Victory*) with help from *Francine.*
- *Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso* def. *Simon Diamond.*
- *Balls Mahoney* and *Spike Dudley* def. *The Dudley Boyz* for the ECW tag team title.



Chris Chetti

Danny Doring

National Weekly Television Listings

TNN

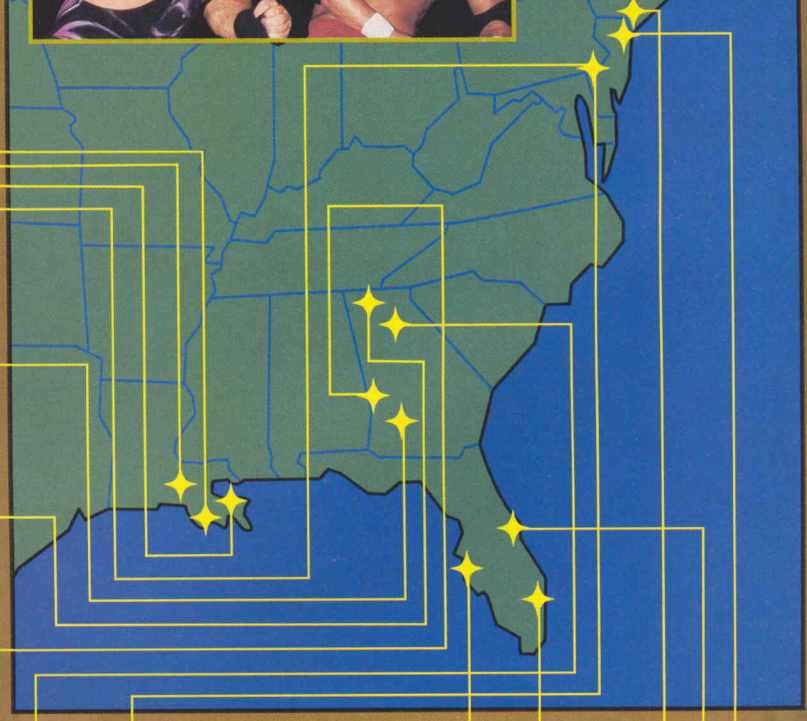
Check out ECW's weekly show on The Nashville Network on Friday nights at 9 p.m. Eastern/8 p.m. Central. Check your local listings for channel number and time. In addition, ECW also carries a weekly, syndicated TV show on the following stations:

City, State	Network	Day	Time
Albany, Ga.	WBKL Ch. 35	Saturday	9 p.m. Eastern
Albany, N.Y.	WBVG	Sunday	1 a.m. Eastern
Atlantic City/Wildwood, N.J.	WWAC Ch. 53	Saturday	9 p.m. Eastern
Baton Rouge, La.	WGMB Ch. 44	Friday	12:30 a.m. Central (Replay Tuesday 4 a.m.)
Buffalo, N.Y.	WYNO Ch. 49	Saturday	10 p.m. Eastern
Burlington/Plattsburgh, N.Y.	WBVT Ch. 39	Saturday	1 a.m. Eastern
Carbondale, Ill.	SPC	Friday	10 p.m. Central (Replay Tuesday 7 p.m.)
Chicago	WCIU Ch. 26	Saturday	3 a.m. Central
Cincinnati	WBQC Ch. 25	Monday	10 p.m. Eastern (Replay Saturday or Sunday)
Columbus, Ga.	WCGT Ch. 16	Saturday	7 p.m. Eastern (Replay Wednesday 10 p.m.)
Columbus, Ohio	WLWG Ch. 62	Thursday	9 p.m. Eastern
Dayton, Ohio	WUCT Ch. 51	Saturday	6 p.m. Eastern (Replay Sunday 11 p.m.)
Detroit	WADL Ch. 38	Thursday	11 p.m. Eastern
Florida	Sunshine Network	Friday	2 a.m. Eastern
Fresno, Calif.	KGMC Ch. 43	Friday	11 p.m. Pacific
Gulfport, Miss.	WXXV	Saturday	1 a.m. Central
Indianapolis	WAV Ch. 53	Sunday	5 p.m. Eastern (Replay Tuesday 10 p.m.)
Jacksonville, Fla.	WJWB Ch. 17	Sunday	1 a.m. Eastern
Las Vegas	KCNG Ch. 25	Saturday	1 p.m. Pacific
Las Vegas	KVWB Ch. 21	Saturday	2 a.m. Eastern
Long Island, N.Y.	WVVH Ch. 10	Saturday	10 p.m. Eastern
Louisville, Ky.	WBNA Ch. 21	Friday	1 a.m. Eastern
Memphis	WBII Ch. 20	Saturday	10:30 p.m. Central
Miami	WAMI	Saturday	11 p.m. Eastern
Montgomery/Selma, Ala.	WAXC Ch. 64	Monday	10:30 p.m. Central
Murray, Ky.	WQTV Ch. 46	Saturday	11 p.m. Eastern
New Jersey	CTN	Saturday	4 p.m. Eastern
New Orleans	WGNO Ch. 26	Saturday	2 a.m. Central
New York City area	MSG	Saturday	1 a.m. Eastern
Orlando, Fla.	WRVW Ch. 65	Friday	1 a.m. Eastern
Philadelphia	WGTW Ch. 48	Friday	10 p.m. Eastern (Replay Saturday 9 p.m.)
Pittsburgh	WBGN	Saturday	10:30 a.m. Eastern (Replay Saturday 11:30 p.m.)
Twin Falls, Idaho	KKHM Ch. 55	Saturday	11 a.m. Mountain
USA	America One Network	Saturday	1 a.m. Eastern (Replay Friday 3 a.m.)
Washington, D.C. area	General Media Cable	Tuesday	6 p.m. Eastern
Wilmington, N.C.	WSSN	Saturday	1 a.m. Eastern
Youngstown, Ohio	WFYX	Saturday	2 a.m. Eastern

ECW ON TOUR

Visit www.ECWwrestling.com for updates!

Show dates and locations are subject to change.



Thursday, Oct. 7
Houma Civic Center
Houma, La.

Friday, Oct. 8
Riverside Centroplex,
Baton Rouge, La.

Saturday, Oct. 9
Alario Sports Center,
New Orleans

Sunday, Oct. 23
ECW Arena
Philadelphia

Thursday, Oct. 28
Albany Civic Center
Albany, Ga.

Friday, Oct. 29
Northwest Georgia
Convention Center
Dalton, Ga.

Saturday, Oct. 30
Comer Auditorium
Columbus, Ga.

Sunday, Oct. 31
Georgia Mountains Center
Gainesville, Ga.

Saturday, Nov. 27
ECW Arena
Philadelphia

Thursday, Dec. 16
Manatee Convention Center
Sarasota, Fla.

Saturday, Dec. 18
Cocoa Sports Center
Cocoa Beach, Fla.

Sunday, Nov. 7
Pay-per-view
Location TBA

Friday, Dec. 3
O'Neill Center
Danbury, Conn.

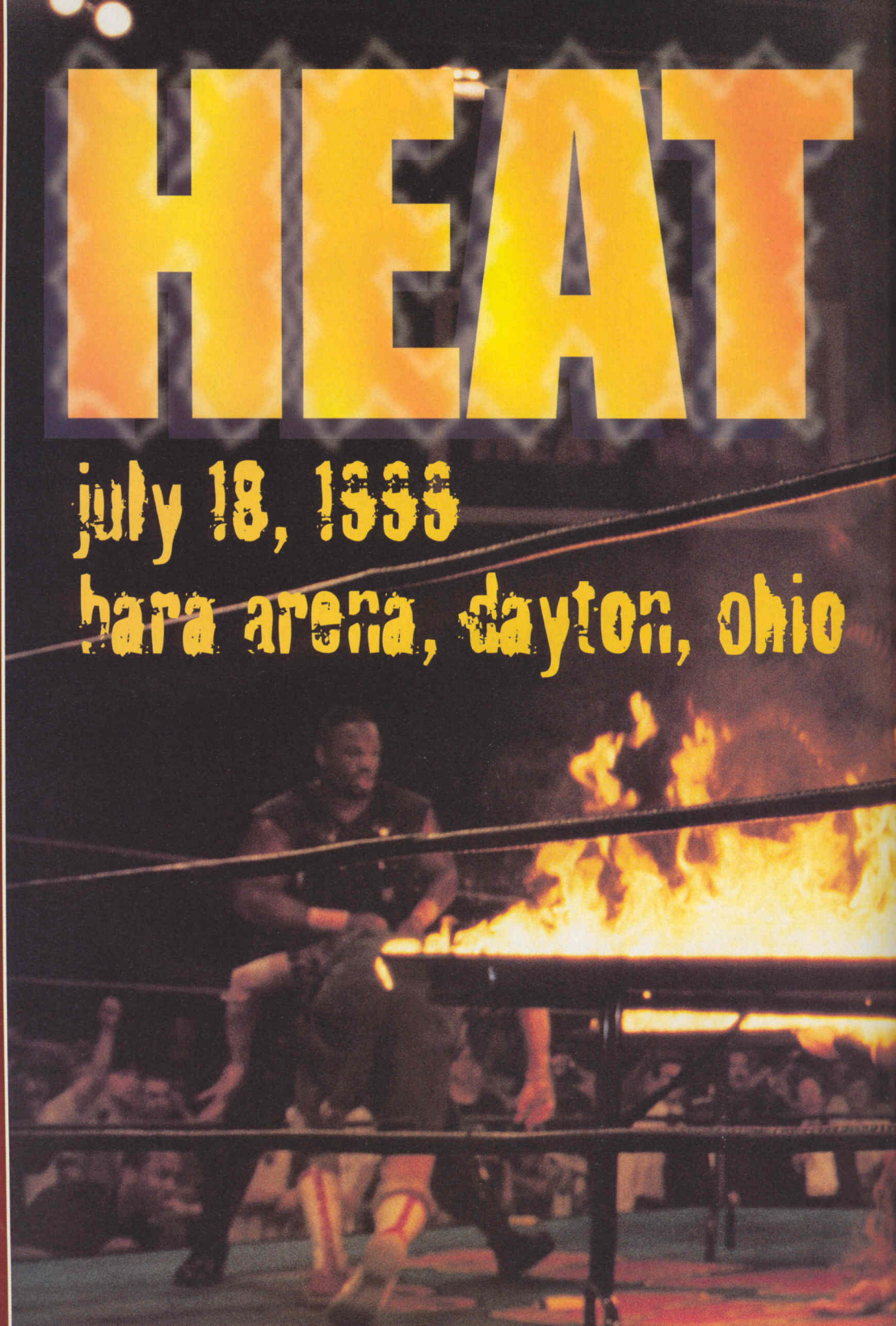
Friday, Dec. 17
War Memorial
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Friday, Dec. 24
Westchester County Center
White Plains, N.Y.

ECW Pay-Per-View

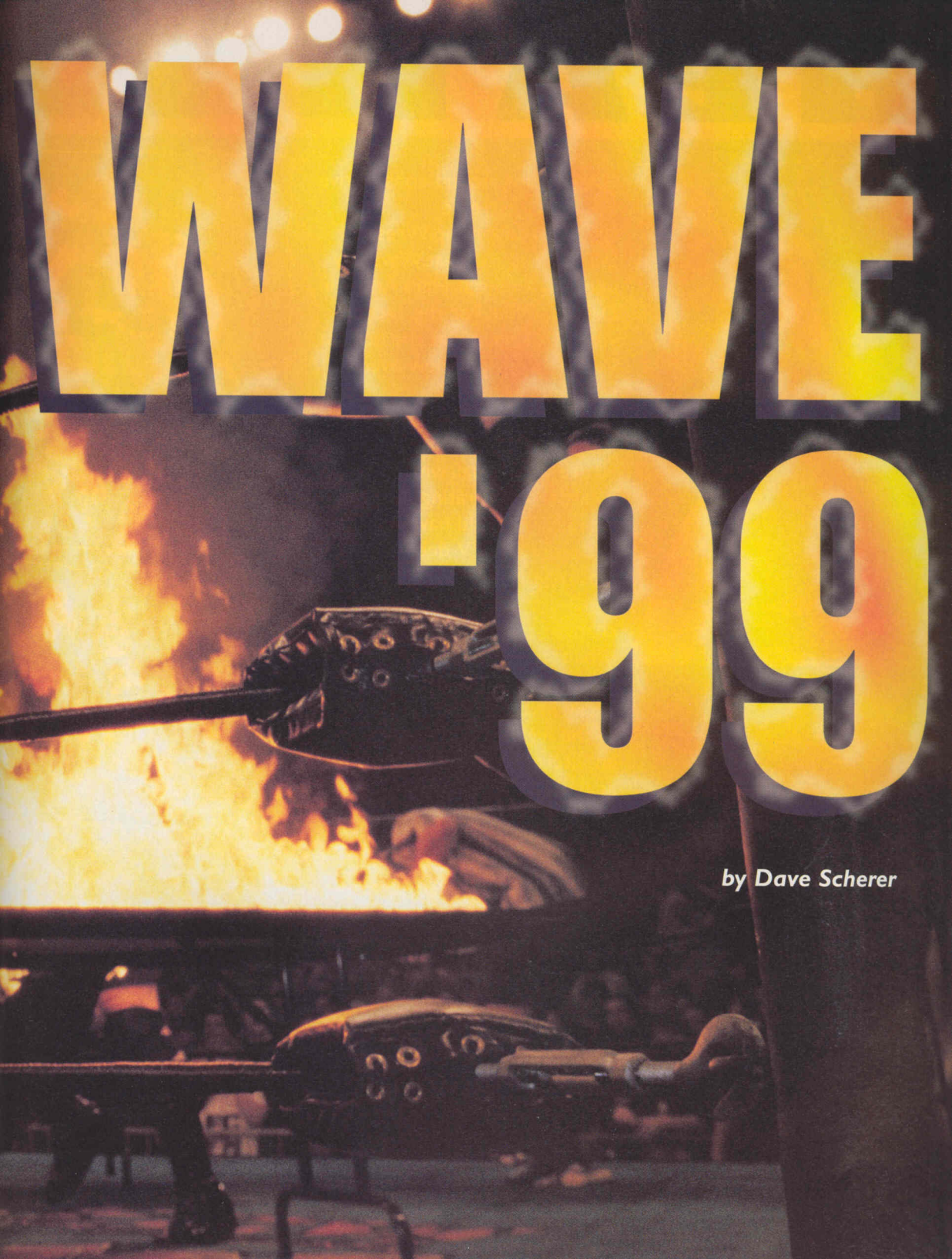
HEAT

july 18, 1998
bara arena, dayton, ohio



WAVE '99

by Dave Scherer

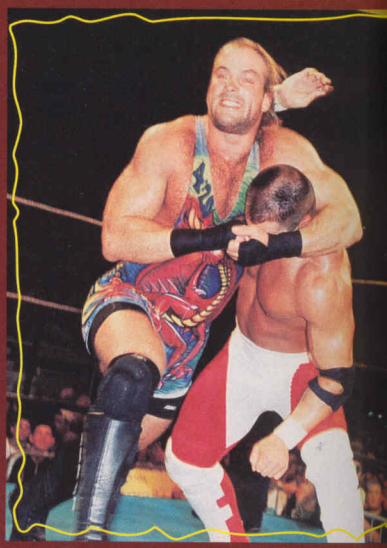


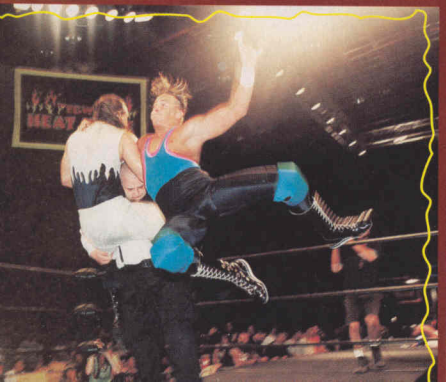
HEAT W

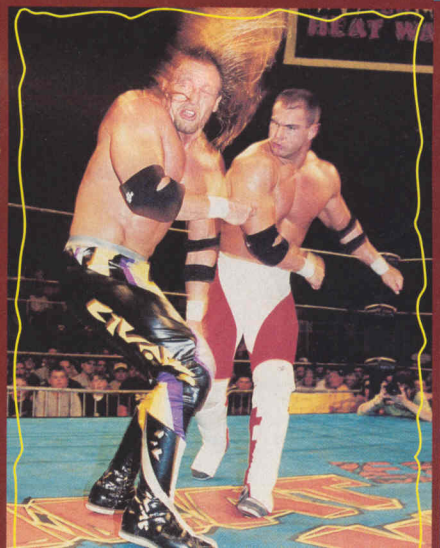
For the second consecutive year, Extreme Championship Wrestling staged its Heat Wave pay-per-view event at Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. For the second year in a row, it was the hottest wrestling pay-per-view event of the summer.

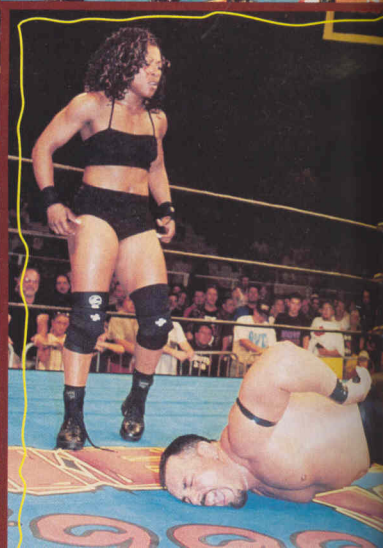
Going into the show, the ECW locker room was more festive than usual, with all the wrestlers celebrating the news that ECW would have its national cable TV debut on The Nashville Network on Aug. 27.

There was also a subtle change in the pay-per-view broadcast, with Cyrus joining announcer Joey Styles in the ECW broadcast booth for most of the night. The duo delivered an interesting and informative analysis throughout the show and proved to be a solid pairing.



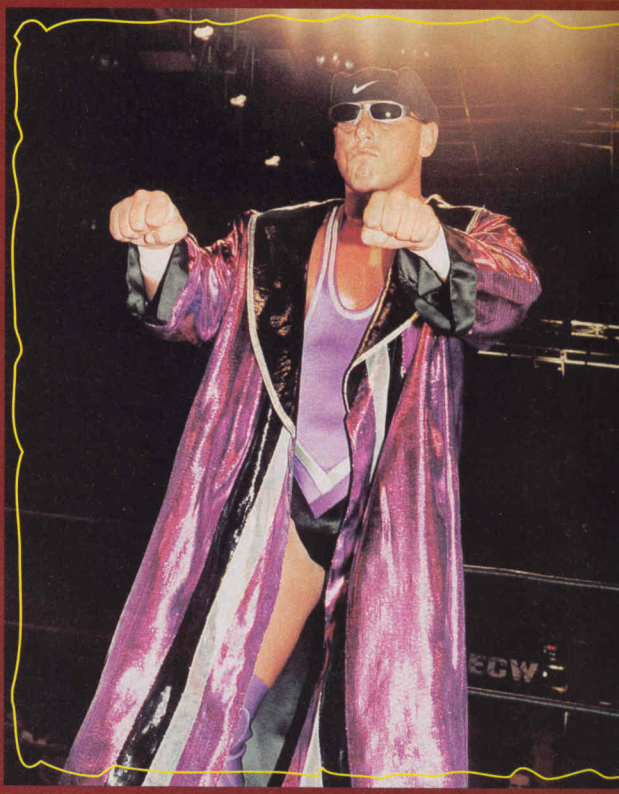


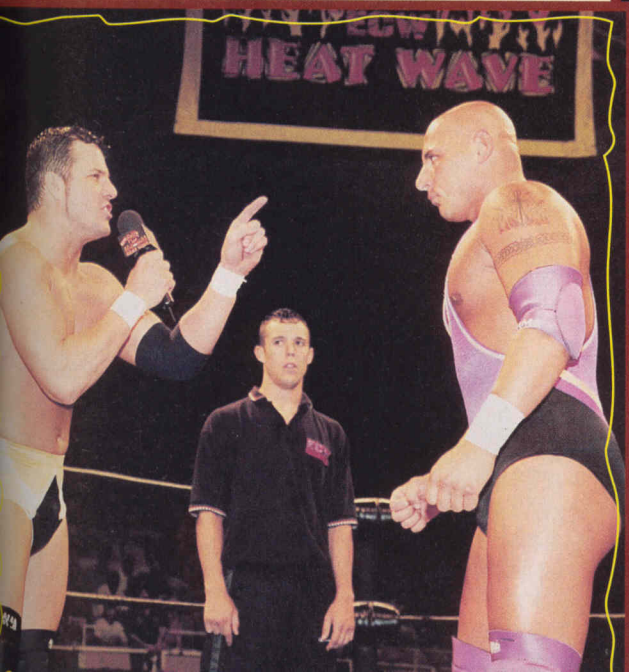


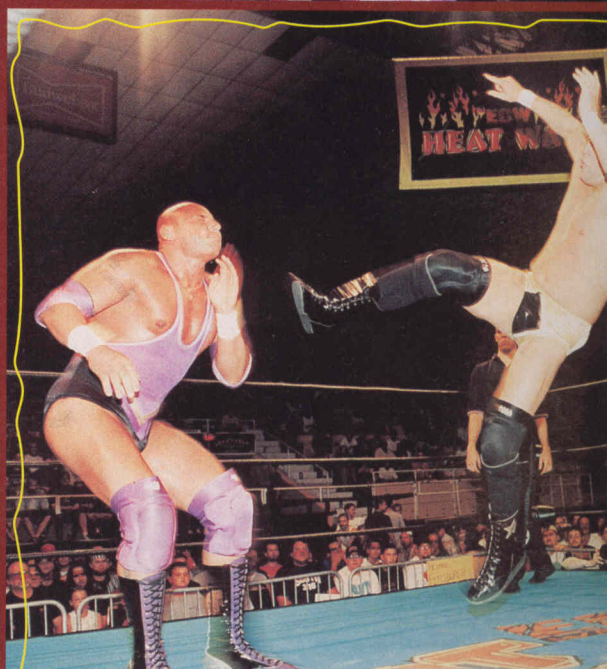


vito "the skull" lograsso vs. simon diamond

The show began in front of a vocal crowd of more than 4,000 fans with a dark match (not seen on TV) pitting Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso against Simon (formerly Lance) Diamond. Since abandoning the "Skull Von Krush" moniker, LoGrasso has become a more focused wrestler. He was anything but amused at the beginning of the match when Diamond played an annoying game of "Simon Says." LoGrasso quickly slapped the taste out of Diamond's mouth. LoGrasso dominated early, but Diamond came back with an impressive suplex combination. The rally was short-lived, however, as LoGrasso got the pin with a spike DDT that he calls the Skull Krusher.







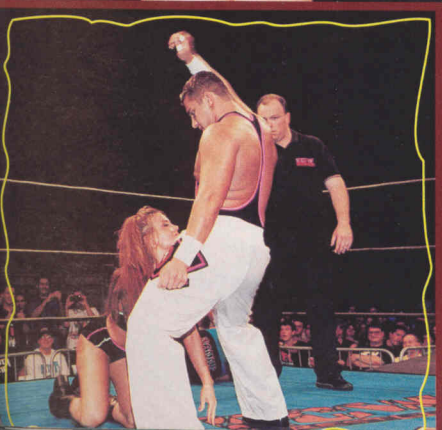
HEAT WAVE '99

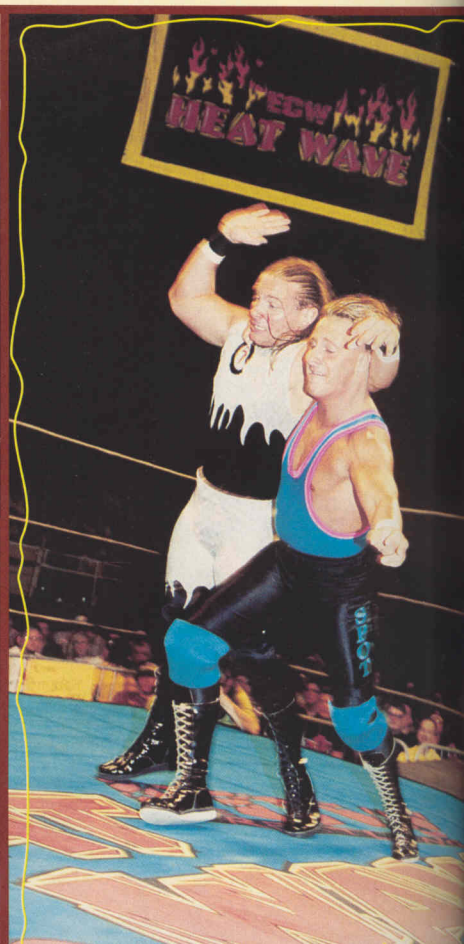
danny doring and roadkill vs. nova and chris chetti

The pay-per-view opened with Danny Doring and Roadkill hitting the ring. Doring was accompanied by Angelica, to whom he professed his love. Doring then proposed marriage to the fine lass and she agreed. When she asked for a ring, however, Doring was dumbfounded. He asked Roadkill if he had a ring, and Roadkill instead gave him a metal chain. Doring decided that was not an appropriate token of his devotion and turned it down. He was then given a condom, which he placed on her finger. Love is bliss!

Chris Chetti and Nova then entered the ring, with Chetti decked out in his new heartthrob garb. Nova ran in first while Chetti posed on the walkway. Doring came up from behind and broke Chetti's cane over his head. This led to Doring and Roadkill dominating Nova early on. Nova finally managed to get a tag to Chetti and then a brawl broke out, with Chetti and Nova getting the upper hand.

Nova had been unhappy with Chetti's preening for the crowd at other events, and it happened against at Heat Wave. The difference was, after Chetti started dancing with Doring's fiancee, Nova asked him what his deal was. Doring's fiancee then wound up and slapped at Nova's face. Nova ducked, and she hit Chetti in his "pretty face." That led to Chetti planting her with an Amityville Horror. Nova and Chetti quickly went to the top and hit their Tidal Wave finisher for the win in 7:05.





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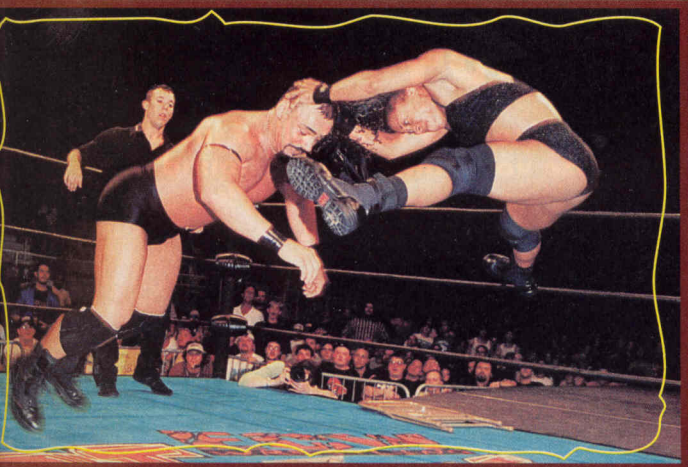
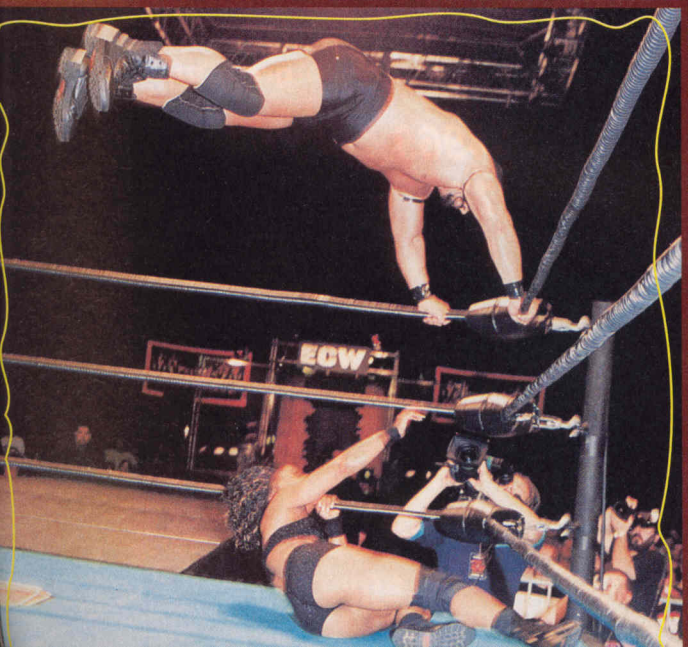
HEAT WAVE '99

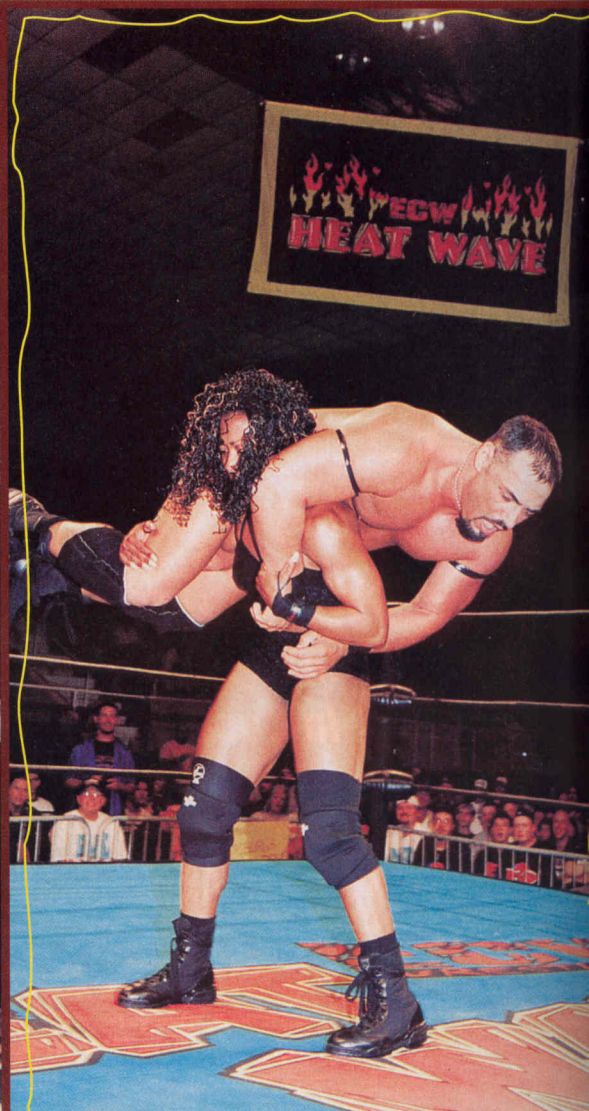
jason vs. jazz

A battle of the sexes was born after Jason and Justin Credible treated Jazz (formerly "The Unnamed Woman") poorly. This kind of match – when one of the two is not an accomplished wrestler – has been hard to watch in the past, but this bout was an exception, as Jason and Jazz displayed tremendous athletic ability. Jazz in particular showed that she could be a very fine wrestler if she chose to do so.

Jason tried to use his size advantage to beat Jazz down, and it worked early in the match. Jazz kept coming back, however, and nailed him with a Samoan Drop and a low blow. She followed with a chairshot to the groin. Jason's attempted comeback was short-lived as Jazz smashed him face-first into a chair to win the match in 6:34.





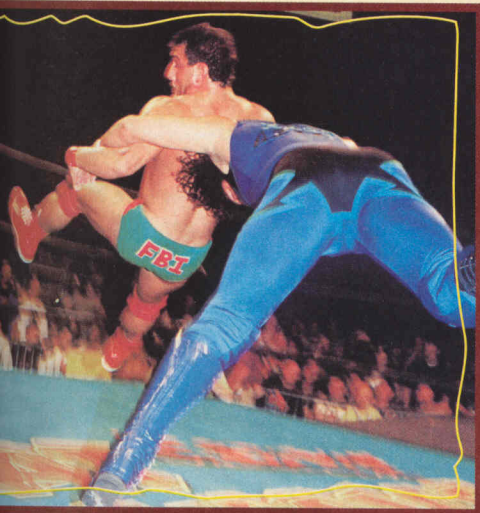


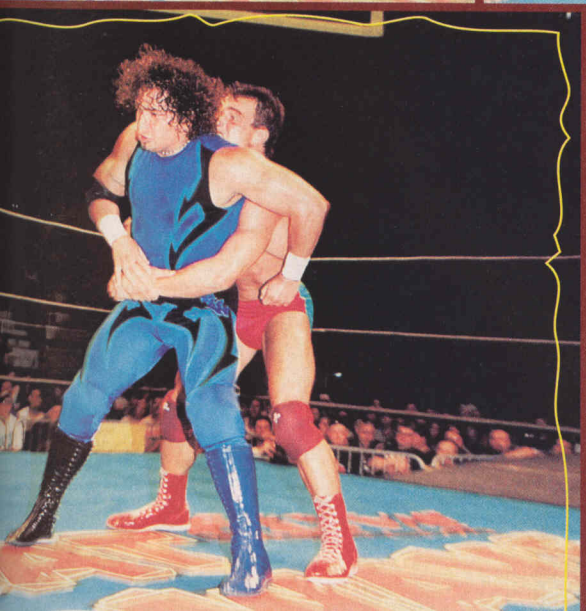
HEAT WAVE '99

super crazy vs. little guido (with big sal e. graziano)

This was a great match between two young, up-and-coming wrestlers. Guido continued his metamorphosis from a comedy wrestler, which he largely was in the Full Blooded Italians, to a serious, mat-oriented grappler, playing off of his background as a legitimate shoot style wrestler. Crazy, meanwhile, continues to be a huge favorite of ECW fans, doing almost unbelievable moves from virtually any position.

With the help of the 600-pound Graziano, Guido was on top early in this match. After a quick back and forth in the ring, Graziano powerbombed Crazy on the floor, but Crazy came back. His most incredible move in this bout was a death-defying Asai Moonsault off of the first level guardrail, into the crowd and onto Guido and Graziano. When everyone got back to the ring, Crazy did a plancha off of the top rope onto Sal and got the pin on Guido with a powerbomb in 12:14.





HEAT WAVE '99

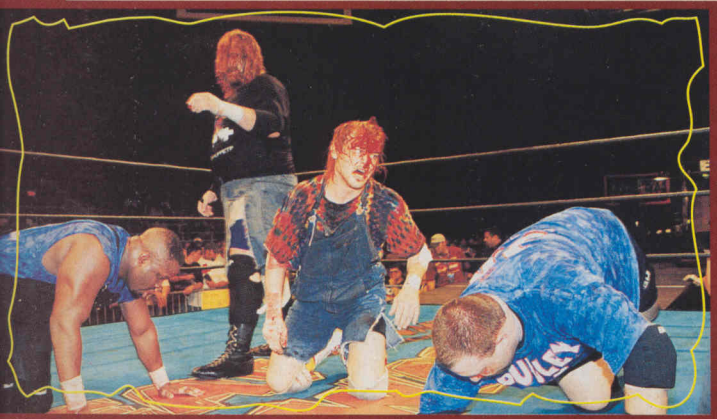
the dudley boyz (buh buh ray and d-von, champions, with sign guy dudley and joel gertner) vs. balls mahoney and a 'mystery partner' (for ecw world tag team title)

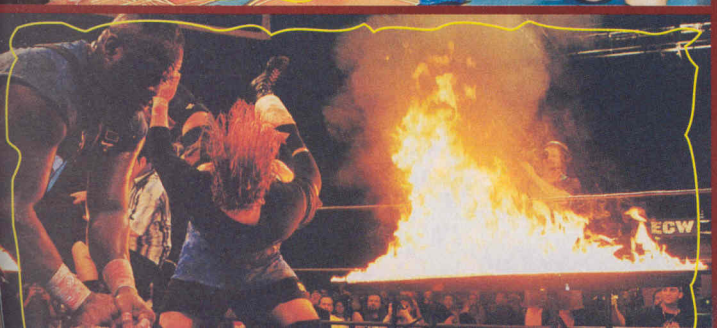
Whenever the Dudley Boyz enter a ring, fans never know what will happen, and that was certainly the case at Heat Wave. Buh Buh let everyone in the building know how little he thought of all of them with a mixture of nasty insults and taunts. When he was done, Gertner and Sign Guy also ripped into the fans. You could say the Dudleys are basically anti-social. Of course, this was not a Sunday soiree but a hardcore tag match that, as Mahoney decreed, would see falls count anywhere in the building. For his partner, Mahoney chose the only man who had as much heat with the Dudleys as he did – their little brother Spike Dudley.

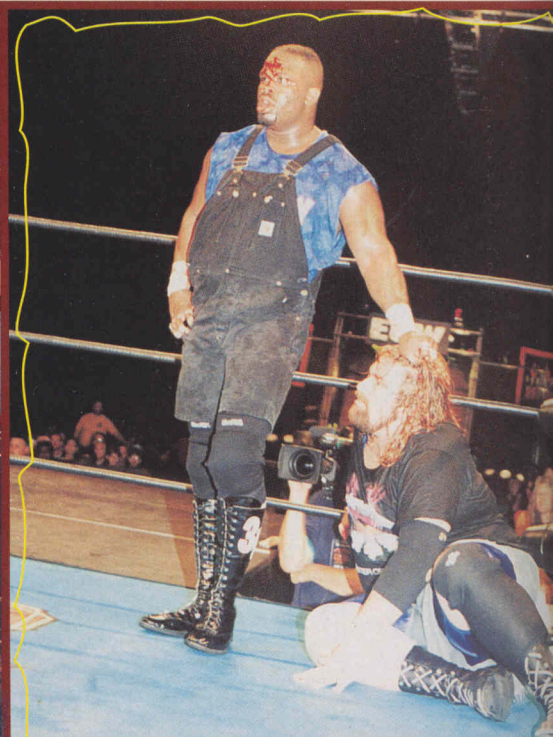
This bout had everything that you would expect from the four combatants, a violent bloodletting that saw the men brawl all around the building and beat each other from pillar to post. All four men were busted open with items such as cheese graters and stiff chair-shots. Somehow, Balls and Spike managed to roll up both Dudleys and win the ECW tag team title in 15:10.

The Dudleys, being the individuals they are, would not allow Balls and Spike to celebrate after the victory. They attacked the new champions from behind while they reveled in their win. After hitting both men with the Dudley Death Drop, the Dudleys brought two tables into the ring and set them afire. D-Von power-bombed Spike through one table while Buh Buh chose to simply drop Balls on his head instead of putting him through the other.

Before the Dudleys could do more damage, New Jack made the save by hitting the ring with a shopping cart full of weapons. He took out both Dudleys and even nailed Buh Buh in the groin with a vacuum cleaner! The fans cheered wildly for the returning New Jack.







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on sale October 1999

core: (Kôr, Kōr), -n

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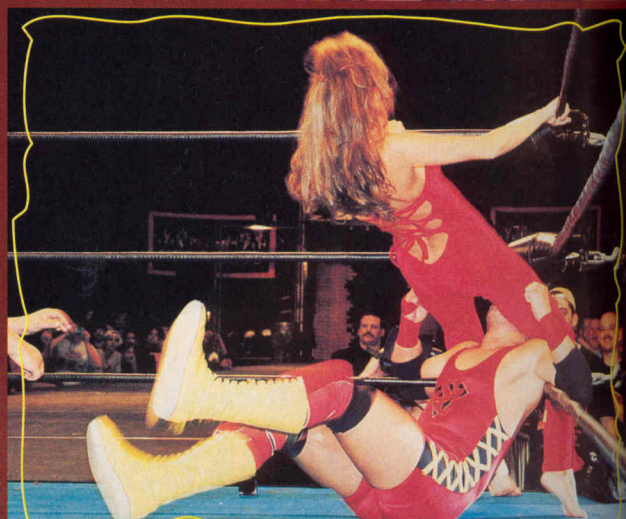
HEAT WAVE '99

tommy dreamer (with francine) vs. steve corino

Tommy Dreamer came out with the lovely Francine. He told the crowd that he had watched a few bad pay-per-views earlier that month from the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling and that ECW was setting the standard for pay-per-view broadcasts. He added that he was proud that ECW had grown to a national company that would soon reach over 100 million households on The Nashville Network. He then began to cry and said he had something else to tell the crowd.

Before he could say what that was, Steve Corino came out with Jack Victory and Rhino. Corino told the fans that at 28 years old, Dreamer was a victim of ECW's hardcore style and would have to retire because he has two herniated discs in his back. Corino said Dreamer used to be a good wrestler, but since he turned into an extreme brawler his new style had betrayed him. He called for Dreamer to lay down and pass the torch by letting Corino pin him.

Dreamer told him he would never do that and took on Corino. He quickly got the upper hand and then turned the pest over to Francine, who quickly laid out Corino with a Bronco Buster and a DDT. Yoshihiro Tajiri then entered the ring and laid out Francine and Dreamer with kicks before putting Dreamer into the Tarantula, trying to end Dreamer's career.



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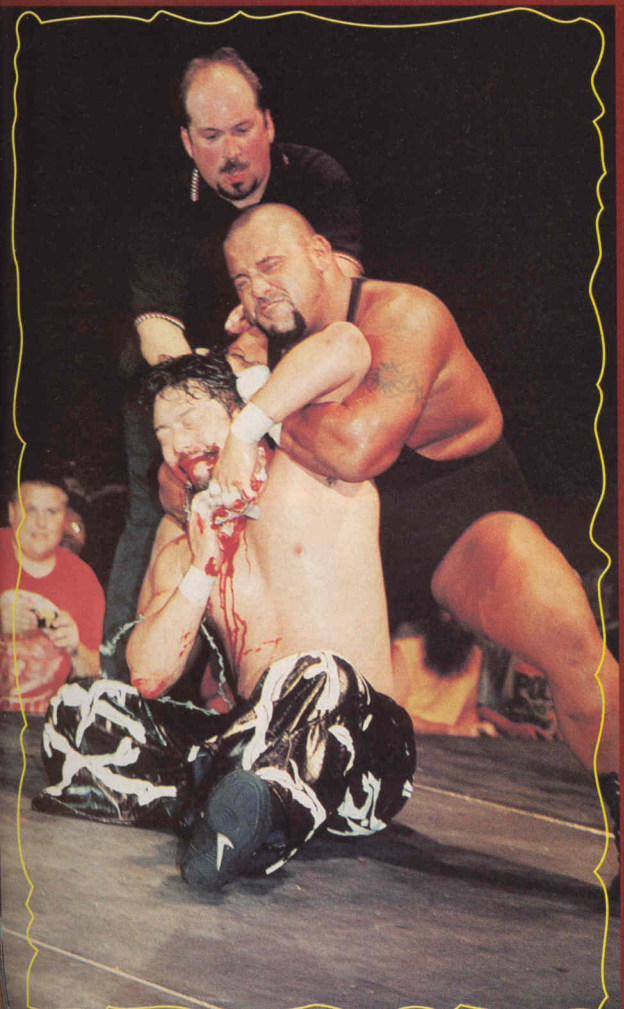
HEAT WAVE '99

taz (champion) vs. yoshihiro tajiri (for ecw world heavyweight title)

After Tajiri put his hold on Dreamer in the previous match, Taz's music began to play and the fans roared. Tajiri tried to release the hold but, even though he was in pain, Dreamer held onto the move at the expense of his back to prevent Tajiri's escape. Taz had issues to settle with Tajiri after the sneak attack that he received in Queens, N.Y., before the pay-per-view. Tajiri tried to put Taz in the Tarantula immediately, but the ECW champion powerbombed and suplexed the tar out of him.

Taz acted like a man possessed, going outside the ring and busting Jack Victory open by bashing him in the head with his own wheelchair. Tajiri kept trying to kick Taz, but nothing worked. Taz pounded the challenger on the rampway and went to the entrance position and tore off a piece of its barbed wire. He put it in Tajiri's mouth and slapped on the Tazmission, retaining the title in 10:05 on a no-contest.

Tajiri, who fought valiantly, was left on the rampway with blood pouring from his mouth. Showing a lack of sound judgment, Judge Jeff Jones then came out onto the rampway in an attempt to calm Taz. The world champion promptly hurled Jones into the frenzied crowd.



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ECW 42 Gangstas vs. Dudleys vs. Eliminators (3 way dance, Bloody)-Shane Douglas vs. Balls Mahoney,Tommy Dreamer vs. Louie Spicolli (bloodbath),Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Taz + Chris Candido - Balls Mahoney vs. Sandman - Taz vs. Spike Dudley - Raven + Stevie Richards vs. Terry Funk + Tommy Dreamer (Wild)

ECW 43 Raven vs. Dreamer (clips) - Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer (final match ever between the two.Watch as Jerry Lawler invades the ECW Arena and attacks Tommy Dreamer and destroys the whole ECW locker room in one of the best matches ever in ECW history. Wild bloodbath!!!!!!) - Sabu vs. Taz - Taz vs. Shane Douglas (Title change) - Tommy Dreamer invades USWA TV - Dudleys vs. Eliminators - Tommy Dreamer vs. Louie

ECW TV 44 Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Pitbull #2 - Chris Candido vs. Tom Prichard - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer + Sandman (Jerry Lawler and Jim Cornette invade the ECW Arena) Jim Cornette destroys Dreamer in the groin and sends him to the hospital!!!!!!!!! - Taz vs. Louie Spicolli - Lance Storm vs. Tracey Smothers - Gangstas vs. Dudleys (cage title change) - Terry Funk vs. Shane Douglas - Sabu + Rob Van Dam + Jerry Lawler vs. Tommy Dreamer + Rick Rude + Sandman (cage) clips.

ECW TV 45 Triple Threat vs. Nova + Spike + Chris Chetti - Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Terry Funk vs. Sabu (Barb wire clips) - Spike vs. Bam Bam Bigelow, Spike pins Bam Bam !!!!!! - Dudleys vs. Balls Mahoney + Axl Rotten - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer

ECW TV 46 Shane Douglas vs. Al Snow - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Bobby Duncum Jr. - Sabu vs. Tommy Dreamer - Kronus vs. Tracey Smothers - Shane Douglas vs. Axl Rotten - (Sabu attacks the Sandman with bottle over his head. Bloody!!!) - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer - Jerry Lynn vs. Chris Candido - Taz vs. Tommy Dreamer - Kronus vs. Dick Dudley

ECW TV 47—FBI vs. Balls + Axl Rotten - Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Spike (rematch) - Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus - Shane Douglas vs. Phil Lafon - Sandman vs. Sabu (Sabu throws fire into Sandman's eyes and blinds him) - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Rob Van Dam + Fonzie vs. Tommy Dreamer + Beulah - Tommy Dreamer vs. Shane Douglas

ECW 48 Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Shane Douglas (Title Change) - Sabu vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Sasuke vs. Justin Credible - FBI vs. New Jack and Kronus - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Dudleys - Shane Douglas + Chris Candido vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon - Taz vs. Rob Van Dam - Sabu vs. Shane Douglas vs. Tommy Dreamer (3 way dance) – Justin Credible vs. Chris Chetti – Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Taz + Tommy Dreamer (Triple Threat split up)

ECW 49 Axl Rotten vs. D-von Dudley vs. Kronus vs. Tracey Smothers (4 way dance) - Taz vs. Buh Buh Ray Dudley - Sabu vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Spike vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Rob Van Dam vs. Al Snow - FBI vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon - Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Steve Richards vs. Chris Chetti - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon (3 way dance)

ECW 50 Sandman vs. Sabu (Tables and ladders match) - Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck (Justin breaks Mikey's leg) - Al Snow vs. Paul Diamond - FBI vs. Tommy Rogers + Jerry Lynn - Taz vs. Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Sandman (Japan) - New Jack dives - Sabu + Rob Van Dam +Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon vs. Al Snow + Sandman + Taz + Tommy Dreamer

ECW 51 Taz vs. Too Cold Scorpio - Sabu Vs. Sandman - Rob Van Dam vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (Sunny's debut) - Chris Candido vs. Jerry Lynn - Balls + Axl Rotten + Tommy Dreamer vs. FBI - Justin Credible vs. Sasuke - Taz vs. Big Dick Dudley - Taz vs. Shane Douglas - Al Snow vs. Paul Diamond - Shane Douglas + Lance Storm—Chris Candido vs. Taz + Bam Bam Bigelow (Everyone turns on everyone) - Justin Credible vs. Gran Hamada

ECW 52 Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Balls + Axl Rotten - Al Snow vs. Doug Furnas - Tommy Dreamer + Sandman vs. Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam (4 way dance) - Balls + Axl Rotten + Tommy Dreamer vs. Brakus + Sabu + Rob Van Dam - Shane Douglas vs. Chris Chetti - Taz vs. Brakus - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Sabu vs. Sandman (dueling canes match) - Rob Van Dam vs. Scorpio

ECW 53 FBI vs. Lance Storm + Chris Candido - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Scorpio + Sandman - FBI vs. Sandman + Scorpio - Tommy Dreamer vs. Justin Credible - Triple Threat vs. Lance Storm + Jerry Lynn + Chris Chetti - Sandman vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Al Snow vs. Rob Van Dam - Spike vs. Dudley

ECW 54 Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Rob Van Dam vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (match of the year, 5 stars title change) - Dudleys destroy Sandman + Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Fatu - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Chris Candido vs. Axl Rotten - Sabu vs. Al Snow

ECW 55 PPV Highlights - Sabu vs. Chris Chetti - FBI vs. Nova + Meanie - Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Lance Storm - Rob Van Dam vs. Doug Furnas - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn - Sabu vs. Danny Doring - Chris Candido vs. Jamie Dundee - Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck (everyone comes in - wild brawl) - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn (2 out of 3 falls) - Sabu + Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm + Rob Van Dam (dream team match)

ECW 56 Sandman vs. Buh Buh Dudley (Jack Victory debut) - Jerry Lynn vs. Justin Credible (I quit match) - Tommy Dreamer brawls with the Dudleys - FBI vs. Nova + Meanie - Sabu vs. Ulf Herman - Rob Van Dam vs. Kronus - Candido + Storm vs. Mikey + Chetti - Sandman vs. Buh Buh Dudley (Beulah's brothers get jumped) - Rob Van Dam vs. Lance Storm - Kronus vs. Jamie Dundee - Shane Douglas + Chris Candido vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam

ECW 57 Balls Mahoney vs. Tanaka - Dudleys vs. Tommy Dreamer + Sandman + Onita from FMW (Wild, bloody brawl as Onita turns on Sandman and Dreamer) - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Candido + Storm (title change) - Taz vs. Lance Storm - Tanaka vs. Mike Awesome - Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus (wild brawl) - Tanaka vs. Tracey Smothers - Justin Credible + Jason vs. Jerry Lynn + Pablo - Taz vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Tommy Dreamer vs. Buh Buh Dudley - Sandman vs. D-von Dudley (canes match) - Spike vs. Big Dick - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm (Lance turns on Candido)

ECW 58 Tons of PPV clips from Heat Wave '98 - Tanaka + Lynn vs. Mike Awesome + Justin Credible - Sabu vs. Taz (Barely Legal) - Sabu vs. Taz (Wrestlepalooza) - Shane Douglas vs. Taz - Sabu + Van Dam vs. Hayabusa + Shinzaki (clips) - Justin vs. Lynn (clips) - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Taz vs. Sabu vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (3 way dance) - Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn

ECW 59 Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Big Sal vs. Spike - Dudleys vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam (wild brawl) - Jerry Lynn vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Tanaka vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Lance Storm vs. Chris Candido (Sunny gets involved) - Big Sal vs. Kronus - Spike vs. Big Sal - Tracey Smothers vs. Tommy Rogers - Sandman vs. Justin Credible (Bloody) - Balls vs. Tanaka - Rod Price vs. Sandman - Spike vs. One Man Gang

ECW 60 Dreamer announces Sandman left for WCW - Spike vs. One Man Gang - D-von Dudley vs. Tanaka (Bigelow comes in) - Mike Awesome video - JT Smith returns - Tommy Rogers vs. Tracey Smothers - Justin Credible vs. Tommy Dreamer (everyone comes in and brawls, streetfight, bloody) - Spike vs. 911 - Lance Storm and Tammy Lynn vs. Chris Candido + Sunny (Strip match) - Triple Threat vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam + Tanaka (major brawl) - Justin Credible vs. Balls - Tanaka + Dudleys (brawl) - Jerry Lynn vs. Chris Candido - Lance Storm vs. Rob Van Dam - Tommy Dreamer vs. Justin Credible (wild, bloody brawl with everyone)

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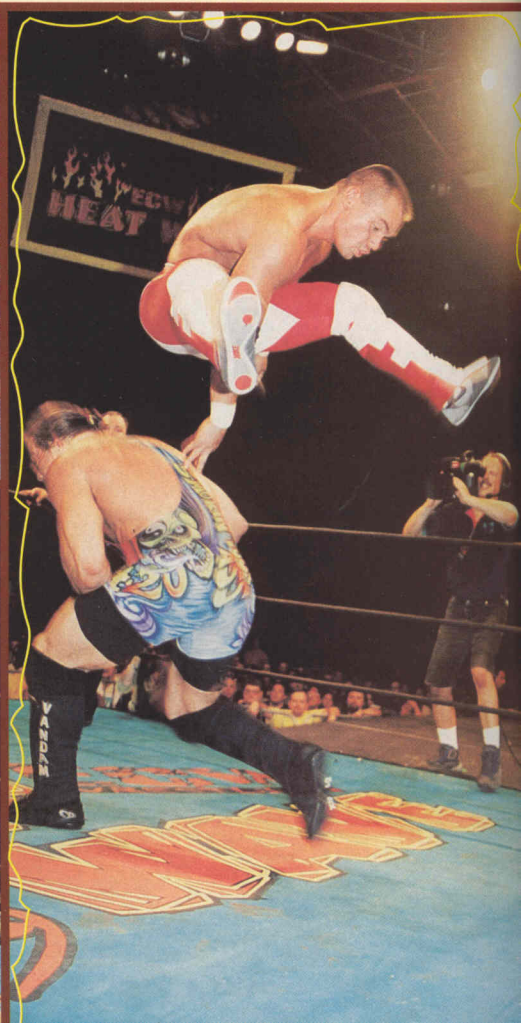
HEAT WAVE '99

rob van dam (with bill alfonso) and jerry lynn vs. lance storm (with dawn marie bytch) and justin credible

The main event had fans salivating, as World Television Champion Rob Van Dam agreed to team with one of his fiercest rivals, Jerry Lynn, to take on the Impact Players of ECW, Justin Credible and Lance Storm. Storm came to the ring with Dawn Marie Bytch, while Van Dam was escorted by Bill Alfonso. Before the match, Alfonso grabbed a sign from a ringside fan that said, "Get Well Sonya," which referred to Van Dam's wife, who had broken her leg in a jet ski accident. Styles and Cyrus sent their best wishes to Sonya Van Dam.

The question of the evening was whether Van Dam and Lynn could get along well enough to emerge victorious against the established team of Storm and Credible. In addition to being Lynn's rival, Van Dam also had to deal with his usual tag partner, Sabu, who had caused tension between the two when he teamed with Lynn in an ECW Arena match a few weeks before Heat Wave. The question no one asked was whether this would be an off-the-charts affair because when four wrestlers of this caliber are in the same ring, they can't help but have a fabulous



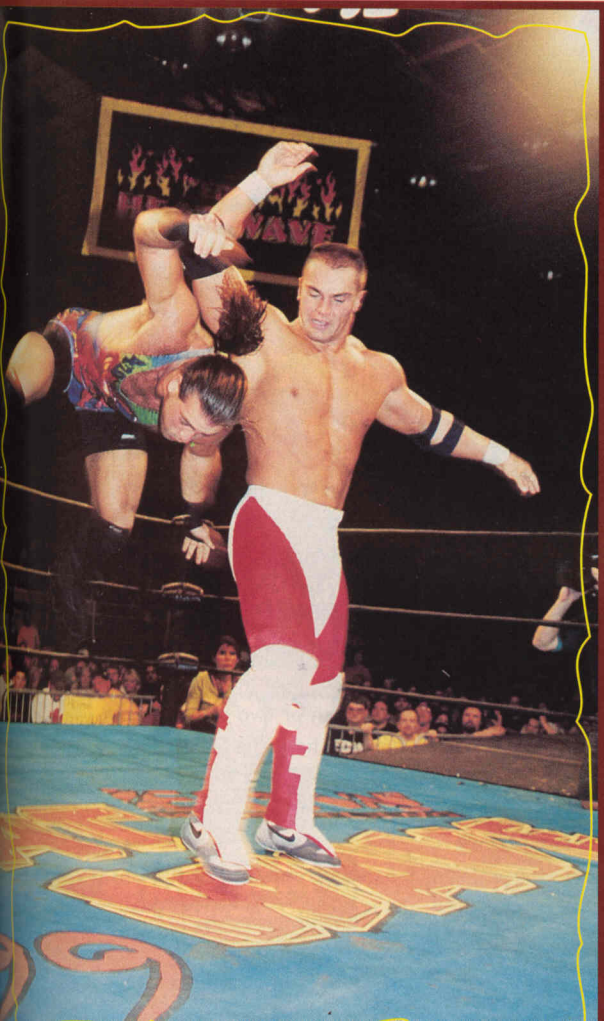
HEAT WAVE '99

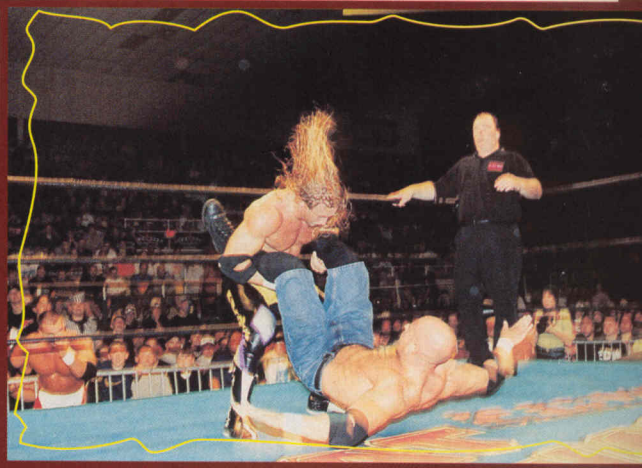
match. Another thing that became apparent in this bout was that every time Van Dam got close to getting his hands on Credible, Justin would tag out to Storm.

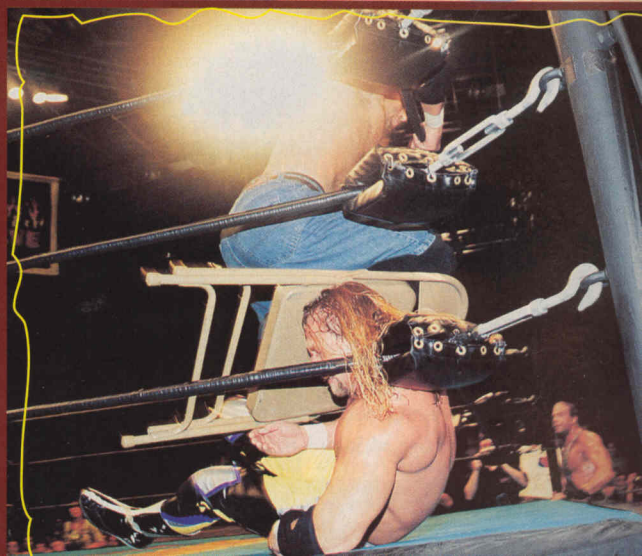
Early on, Storm and Credible went after the formerly broken nose of Lynn. Lynn kept fighting back and fought his way out of the ring by kicking a chair into Storm's face. Van Dam came in and hit all of the moves that make him Van Dam.

Space simply does not allow a run down of all the fantastic things all four men did here. Near the end of the wild match, Van Dam was about to finally get a hold of Credible and put him through a table when Sabu ran into the ring and stole Van Dam's thunder by wasting Credible with a death-defying dive. Van Dam then came off of the top rope with the Five Star Frog Splash, but hit Lynn with it instead. Lynn kicked out at two when Storm covered him.

Rob hit the Van Daminator on Storm, but Lynn then got up and took out Storm with a cradle piledriver and made the pin. Tensions were high at this point, and Sabu, Van Dam and Lynn got into a three-way fracas as Heat Wave '99 went off the air. ecw







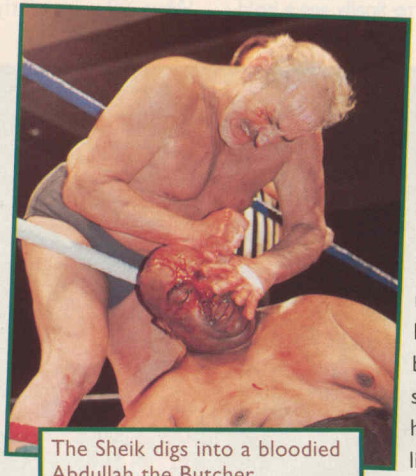
BUMPS

by Donny Laible

The Sheik's legacy of pain lives on with Sabu

Sports entertainer, my eye. In Extreme Championship Wrestling, them there are fighting words. Sabu is a professional wrestler, dammit!

Humor me, please. How can I not single out he who has been deliberately canonized as being homicidal, suicidal and genocidal? With every trip to the ring, Sabu's body is tossed with all the care of a dysfunctional boomerang. Bones are shifted, muscles stretched and joints jolted in positions the medical community defines as nothing close to proper fitness.



The Sheik digs into a bloodied Abdullah the Butcher.

There wasn't much convincing needed for Sabu, the nephew of The Sheik, to follow in the family line of work. For nearly 40 years in the "business" (not sports entertainment), The Sheik stuck to the code of training and performing around the globe as an athlete.

As with The Sheik, being Sabu remains a 24-7 occupation. Did anyone ever hear The Sheik break kayfabe during an interview? Absolutely not. After all, he was The Sheik of Arabia, for goodness sake. And Sabu talking before the cameras – it ain't gonna happen. Anyone who busts himself up as physically as Sabu has over the last dozen years deserves respect, not pity.

Being spoken of as a wrestler with the connotation as an athlete first – and not entertainer – is at the bare minimum downright respectful. Labeling on the package of Sabu is vital. A few weeks back, I telephoned Sabu as he and his wife were cooking dinner and requested a rundown of potential workman compensation injuries he's registered.

With one deep breath Sabu began shooting from the hip (I'm not sure if it was his good one or not).

"Let's see now, I've torn up both knees, cracked my tailbone, twice I've broken vertebra in my neck, both shoulders have been dislocated and one of them still slips out of place regularly, and both rotator cuffs are messed up," Sabu said.

Sabu admits to attending a single chiropractic appointment. While working in constant pain for the Superstore of Hardcore promotions, he tags torpedoing himself through tables as the most dangerous of all moves in his repertoire. He finds solace in being his own one-man trainer's squad and is proud to proclaim having been on ECW's disabled list only one or two days during his on-again, off-again tenure with the company since 1993.

"My jaw's been broken four times," he said. "The first time I took care of it with tape. The second time, I had surgery. Since then, when it slips out of alignment, I just tape my jaw up."

As for his torn flesh, there's been nothing a tube of crazy glue and old-fashioned applying pressure close to the wound can't fix. Take that, throw in occasional limps and a tooth or two being spit out the hard way and, well, you have The Sheik's legacy, '90s style.

The branding of wrestling as sports entertainment is nauseating when spoken in the same promotion as Sabu. He's dearly respected by the fans. More than that, Sabu is loved. ecw

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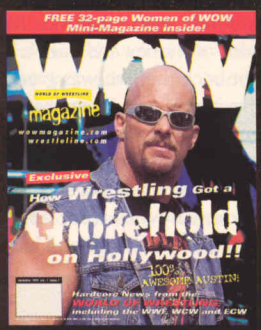
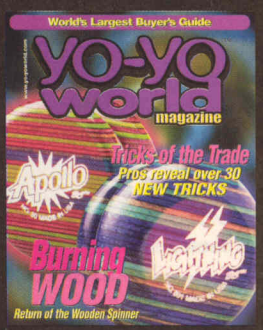




the WhistleBlower

by Bill Alfonso

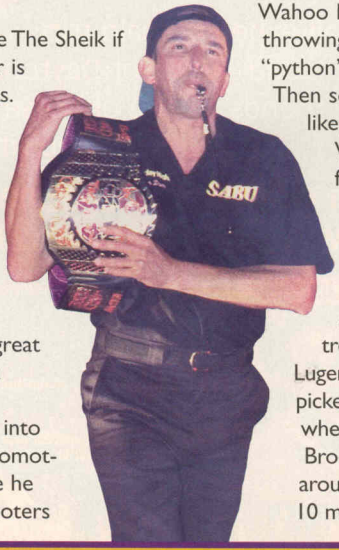
Common thread of lunacy found in careers of The Sheik, Bruiser Brody, Sabu

If you are going to put a gator in your car trunk, make damn sure it's dead

It's a few days after the first TNN tapings and all I have to say is that this has been the most hectic week of my life. "Mr. PPV" Rob Van Dam and Sabu are at each other's throats and I'm doing everything I can to keep peace between the tag team members. There has always been a friendly competition between Sabu and RVD, but tensions have never been this bad. Then I had ECW Magazine calling me to tell me that my column is past due. Well I've had enough and I'm going to vent it all right here in these pages!

Sabu has always been difficult to deal with behind the scenes. He takes after his mentor and uncle, The Original Sheik, in so many ways. I only worked with The Sheik toward the end of his career in Texas in the early 1980s, but I could tell that man had an aura about him. Everyone in the locker room feared and respected him. He was the most dangerous wrestler of his day just like Sabu is the most homicidal, suicidal and genocidal wrestler of today.

So why did promoters use The Sheik if he was so difficult? The answer is easy – he put asses in the seats. The Sheik was unpredictable just like Sabu. Promoters always had to be a little bit leery of him 'cause you never knew what he was going to do or what he was thinking. The same can be said for Sabu. It kind of reminds me of when I worked with the late, great Bruiser Brody down in Florida toward the mid-1980s.



When Brody was brought into the Florida circuit all of the promoters kind of feared him because he always demanded things. Promoters wanted him there at seven o'clock and he would get there at eight. Promoters wanted to pay him $1,000 and he wanted $2,000. He was always making waves. He wrestled who he wanted to wrestle. If they put him with a young stud, he would eat him up. For example, I remember one time in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., at the War Memorial when the bookers put Brody in the ring for a steel cage match with a young man just breaking into the business named Lex Luger. I helped train Luger and I was actually in the production office when they gave him his name.

The promoters said, "hey, we got this young guy, we got him trained and he's coming out of his shell. We are gonna put him on television for the first time but we need a name for him." Since he had such a great physique, which to his credit he has been able to maintain for all these years, they wanted to give him a powerful name. I sat down with Mike Graham, Wahoo McDaniel and Hiro Matsuda and we started throwing ideas out. They thought of something "python" until Matsuda said "Luger," like the gun. Then someone else said "Lex" and everyone was like, "bingo, we got something."

Well Luger had only been wrestling for four or five months at the time when Brody was brought into the territory to boost the houses because he was a big attraction back then. The two were matched up, only Luger didn't really know the business then. I mean he has gone on to make a lot of money and have a tremendous career, but back then he was green. Luger was also used to having his opponents handpicked, kind of like boxer George Foreman did when he made his comeback a few years ago. Brody started being Brody by pushing Luger around and Luger didn't know how to react. About 10 minutes in, Luger just climbed the cage and left

the ring because he didn't know how to take Brody's personality. I was the referee and I had no choice but to end the match right there. Brody was a unique personality in his time and Sabu is about as unique of a personality as you'll find today.

Sabu has earned the right to call his own shots. One thing I don't feel Sabu gets enough credit for is how he has changed the wrestling game in the United States. It was Sabu who first started breaking tables. If you look back at tapes of Sabu from 1994-1995, you'll see Sabu was the man who originated several moves that you see in many matches by many different people today. Sabu was the one who started all that. It was kind of like the way Keiji Muto, also known as The Great Muta, was in Florida when he first came to the United States in the mid-1980s. Muta was the guy who introduced moonsaults and planchas to the United States, which you now see in so many matches today.

When Muta came over from Japan he had already been trained in the dojo, but they wanted him to become more Americanized so they sent him to Florida. That was Matsuda's doing, who owned a piece of the territory along with Eddie Graham. They asked me to take care of Muta for the first three months, which I did.

The Sheik may have been difficult, but promoters used him because he packed houses wherever he wrestled.

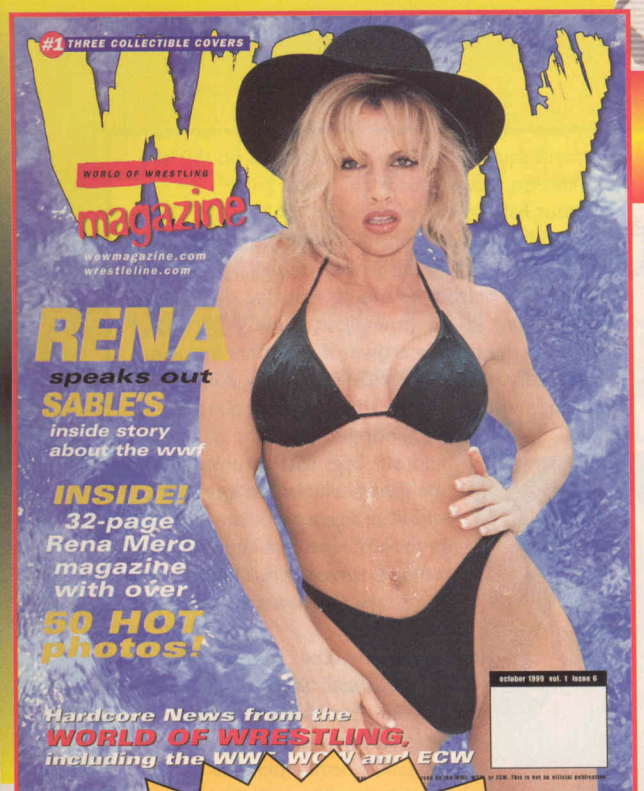
One day me, Muta, Angelo Mosco Jr. and the ring announcer were driving home from Miami in a big Caddy when an alligator crossed our path and I ran over it perfectly. I mean there was no blood, nothing. I went right over its head doing about 90 mph. Well no one in the car had even seen a gator since they were all from out of the country so I slammed on the brakes and backed up. I was born and raised in Florida and had seen hundreds of gators so I started messing with the carcass. It was a big mother and I wanted to take it home so I could get it skinned and make some boots or something. Muta and Mosco Jr. thought I was totally insane. I convinced one of the guys to help me pick up the gator only it was so big that it wouldn't fit in the trunk. I rolled it up like a donut and squeezed it in and we started on the last 100 miles on our way back to Tampa.

About halfway there, we hear "BAM, BAM!" in the trunk and Muta and Mosco Jr. started going nuts. I knew the gator's jaw was broken though, so the beast couldn't open or shut its mouth. But that didn't stop it from flapping its tail around our trunk. When we got back to the hotel a crowd of wrestlers including Ron Bass, Black Bart, The Guerrero Boys, Barry Windham and Steve Keirn all gathered around the car. I popped open the trunk to find our bags totally ransacked by the gator. I wanted to get over with the boys so I put my head in its mouth because I knew it couldn't open or shut it. You know what? I guess I was a little crazy back then.

Even in my craziest days, Sabu has me topped. Sabu has guts, too. In my 20-year career I've never seen a wrestler endure more pain than Sabu. I remember one particular incident at "Born To Be Wired," the barbed wire match against Terry Funk that you can get on ECW home video. Sabu actually tore his biceps open in the middle of the match on barbed wire. I've never seen anything in my career like what happened next. He demanded some tape as the match still progressed. Then as Terry was beating the hell out of him, he taped up the deep wound and went on to capture the world heavyweight title.

After the match, Sabu received over 100 stitches right in the ECW Arena locker room. There is no story in my entire career, which includes working in every promotion from the World Wrestling Federation to World Championship Wrestling to New Japan Pro Wrestling, that can compare to that one. Sabu may not be the easiest guy to work with, but everyone has to respect him for performances like that.

Well remembering some of those stories helped relax me a little, but you can never get too relaxed in ECW. I'm sure the next two months will be very interesting between Sabu and Rob Van Dam and I'll have plenty to write about next time. Who can even guess what my next column will be about? ecw



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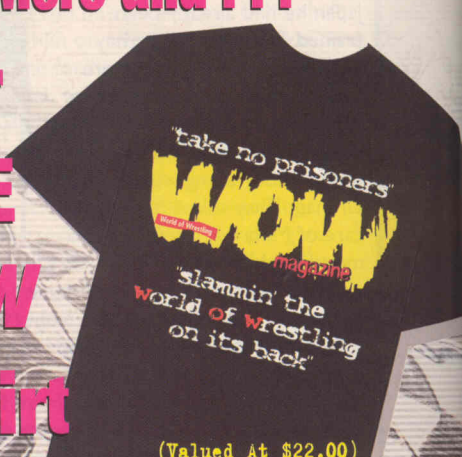

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ECW MAGAZINE PRESENTS

FRANCINE FOURNIER'S DAY OFF

FRANCINE'S DAY OFF

The road trips are brutal. From Louisiana to New York, on to Florida and then Ohio, it's a tiring grind. Every few days there is yet another ECW card in another city. It's the same routine. You leave home, or whatever hotel you're staying at, and rush to the airport. You fly to the destination city and then usually drive an hour or two to the arena. After the show, you hang out for a bit, grab a few hours sleep at another hotel, get up a few hours later and do the whole routine again.

Eventually, maybe once a month, you get home. Now it's time to relax and think about some of your personal needs. You need to shop for clothes, other staples or just shop for the hell of it to change the daily regimen. Or you go to the pool, or you go play pool. Whatever it takes to relax!

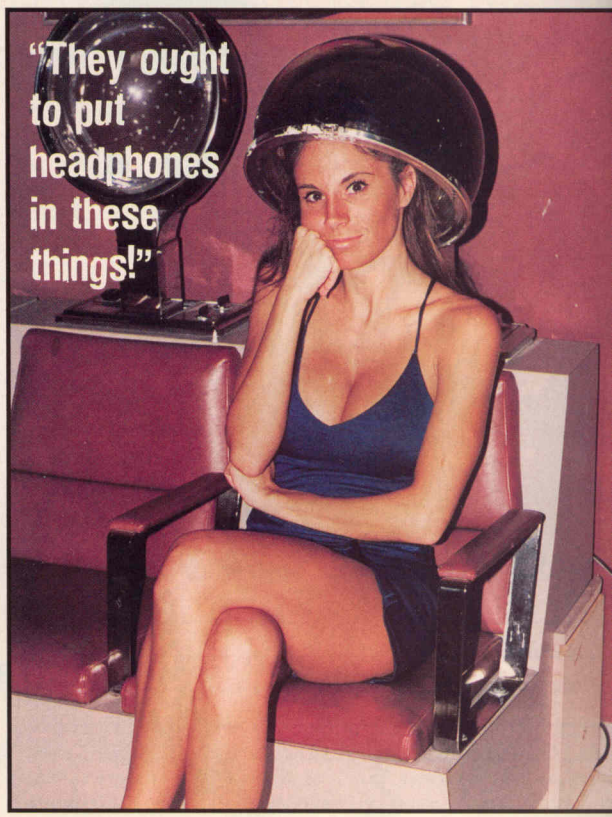
Francine Fournier is one of the many Extreme Championship Wrestling talents whose routine is like the one described above. You can imagine how the long-legged, buxom beauty feels when she gets a day off.

"You need a change of scenery," she said. "Very often that change is in the shopping environment. It gets your mind off your road trips. It's escapism. You're appealing to your interests, your needs. Just turn me loose in a shopping center, and you'll find a happy camper!"

In early August, ECW Magazine offered Francine its official credit card if she would allow one of our lucky photographers to spend a "typical day off" with her. As you can imagine, the pool of volunteer photographers was large, but it was well-known New York City paparazzi photographer Gordon Kimble who landed the plum assignment.

"Throughout my 15 years as an artist behind a camera, I have photographed many beautiful actresses and models," Kimble said. "I have always been fascinated by the lovely women of wrestling, with Francine being my personal favorite. She is the perfect example of a woman who can both charm you and rip you to pieces with her vicious athleticism. When I heard this assignment was available, I called the publisher and practically begged for the job!"

On the following pages, witness Kimble's sensitive photographic approach to Francine during a rare day of leisure. ECW Magazine thanks Francine for allowing readers this glimpse into her private life.



FRANCINE'S DAY OFF

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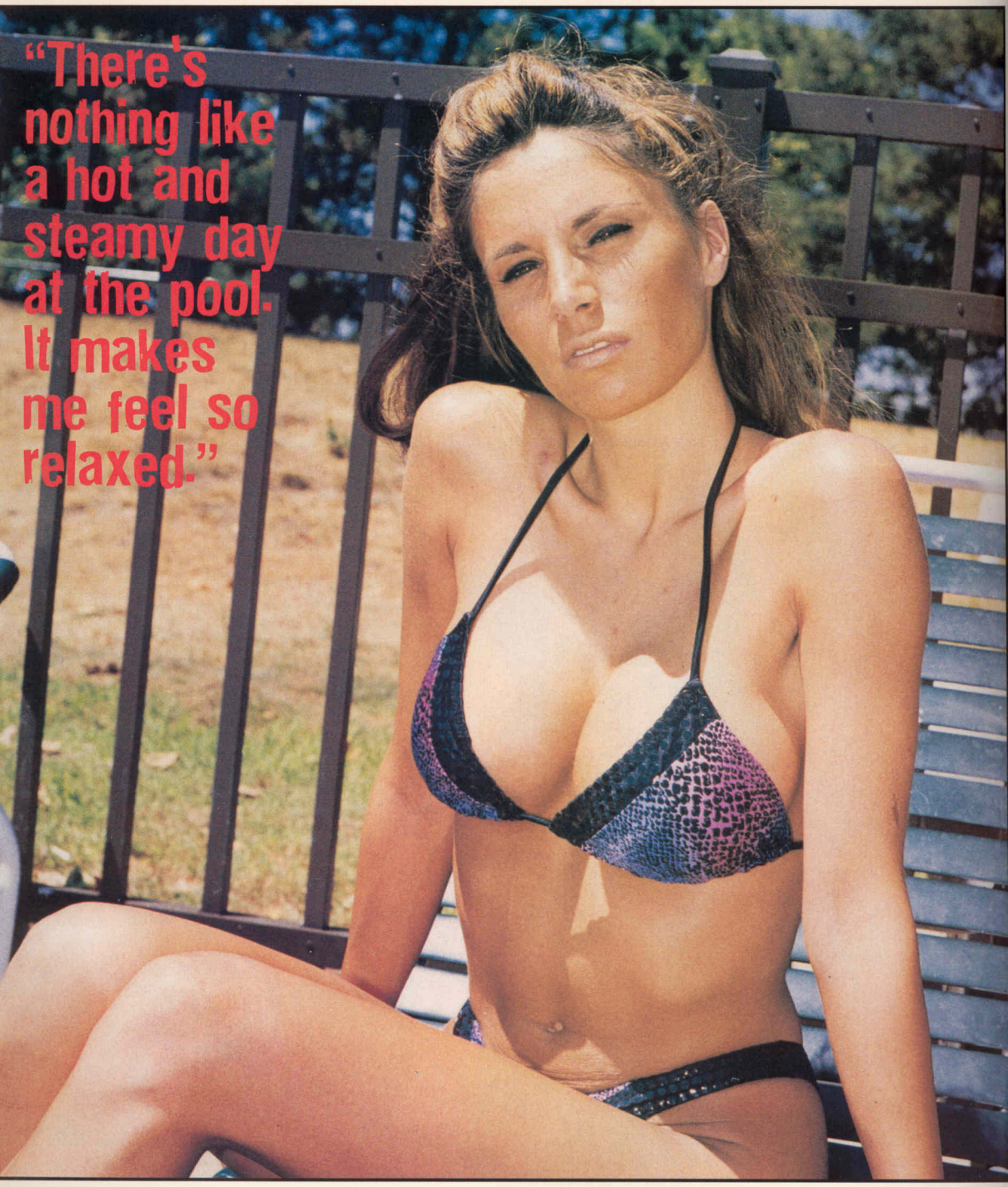

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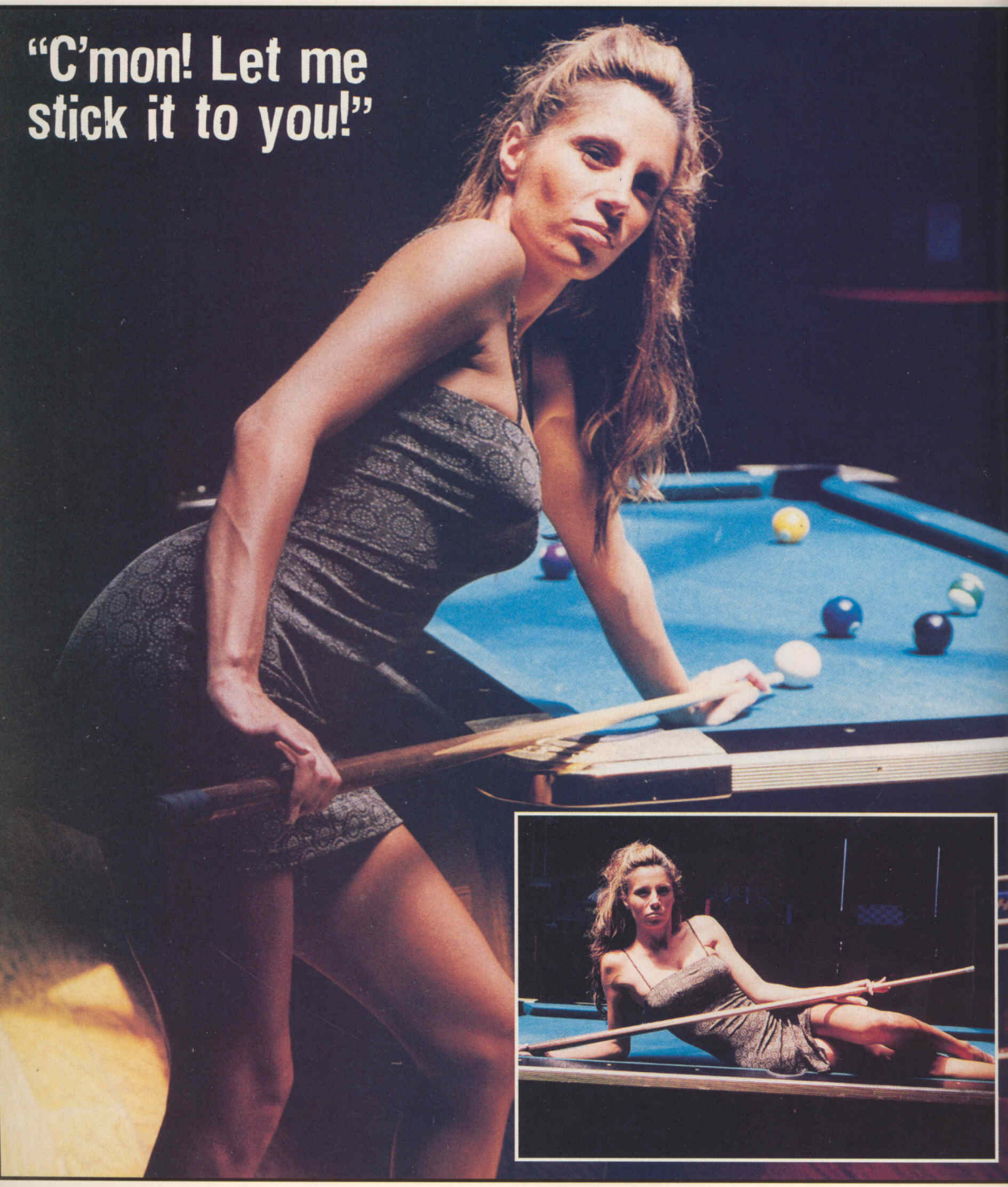

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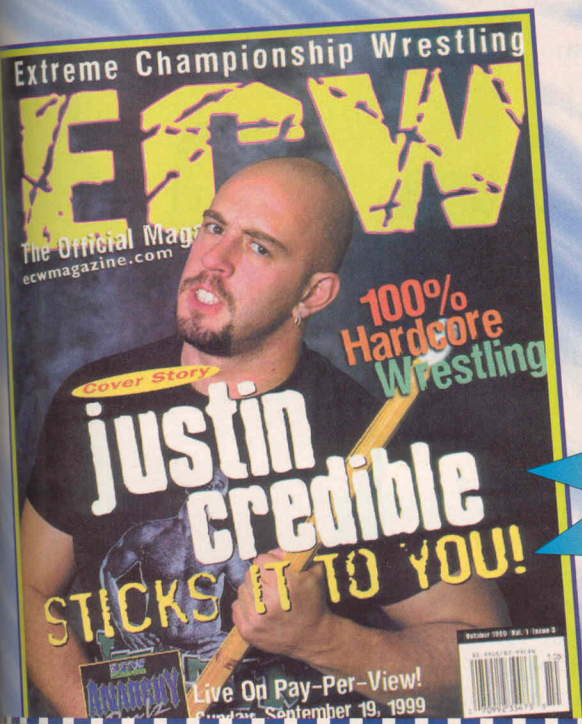

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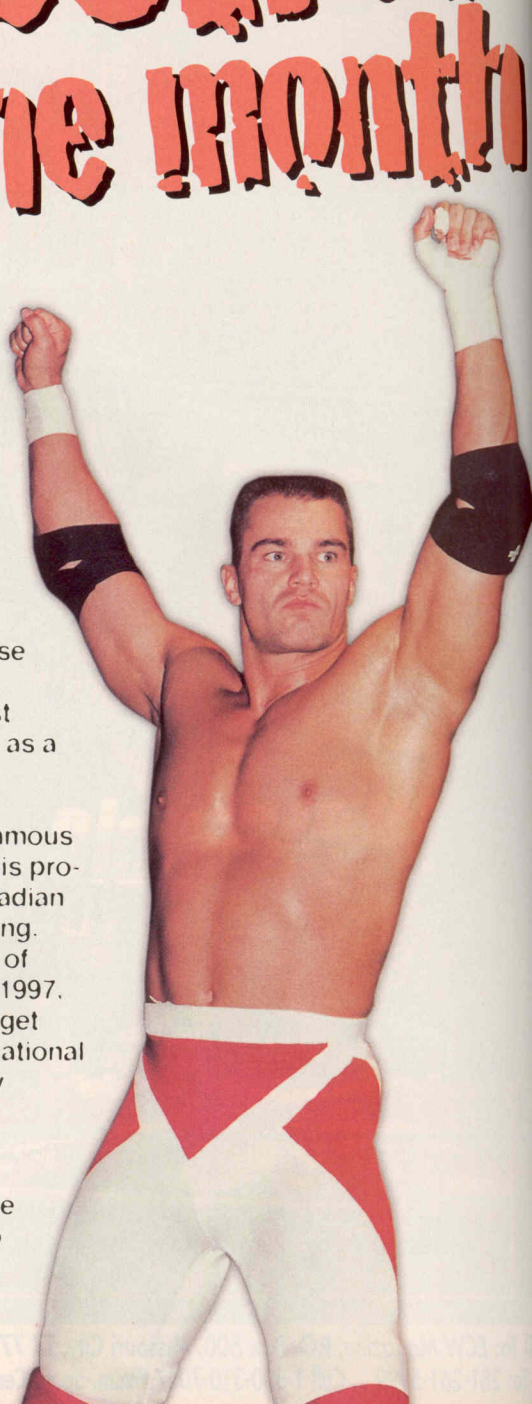
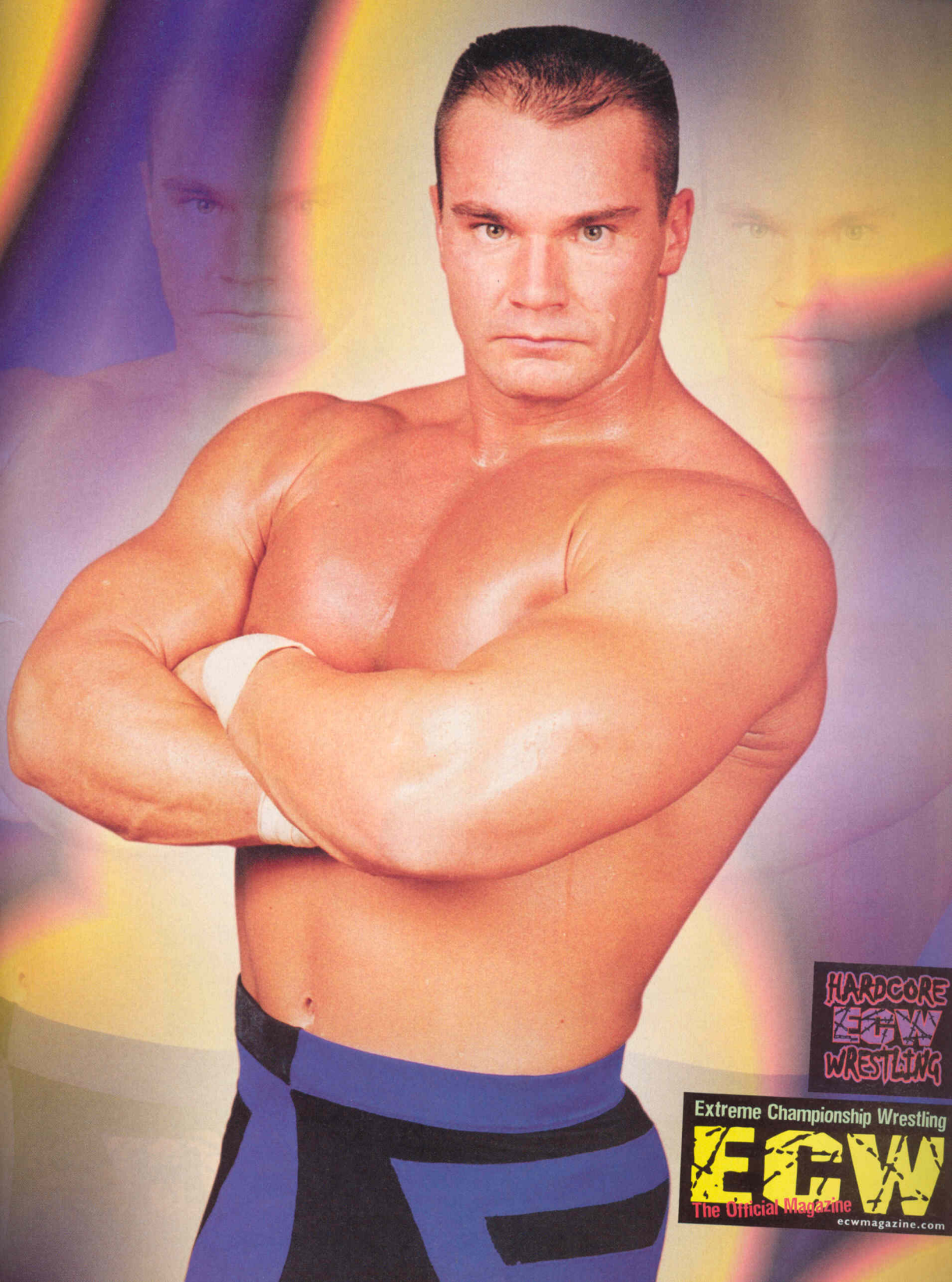
wrestler of the month



Lance Storm is ECW Magazine's final Wrestler of the Month for this century. This wrestling super-stud from - c'mon, say it with us - Calgary, Alberta, Canada, keeps fans on their feet during his frenzied matches, especially those with tag team partner Justin Credible. And just look at him - he's as big as a Mack truck.

Storm trained in the infamous Hart Dungeon and got his professional start with Canadian Rocky Mountain Wrestling. Storm got his first taste of ECW gold in December 1997, and now he's poised to get more recognition on a national level with ECW's weekly show on The Nashville Network.

O Canada, indeed. Lance Storm is ECW's force to be reckoned with from North of the Border.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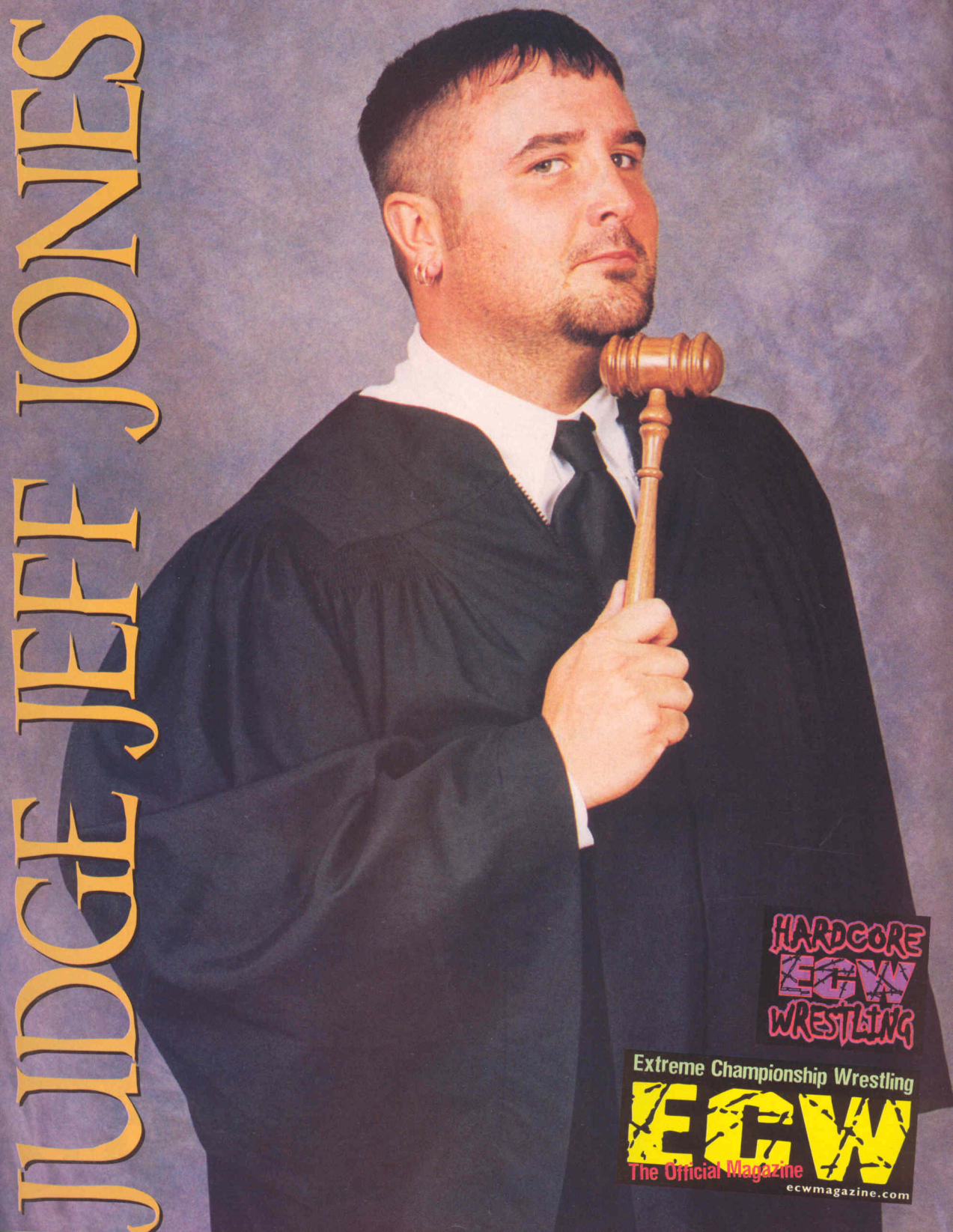

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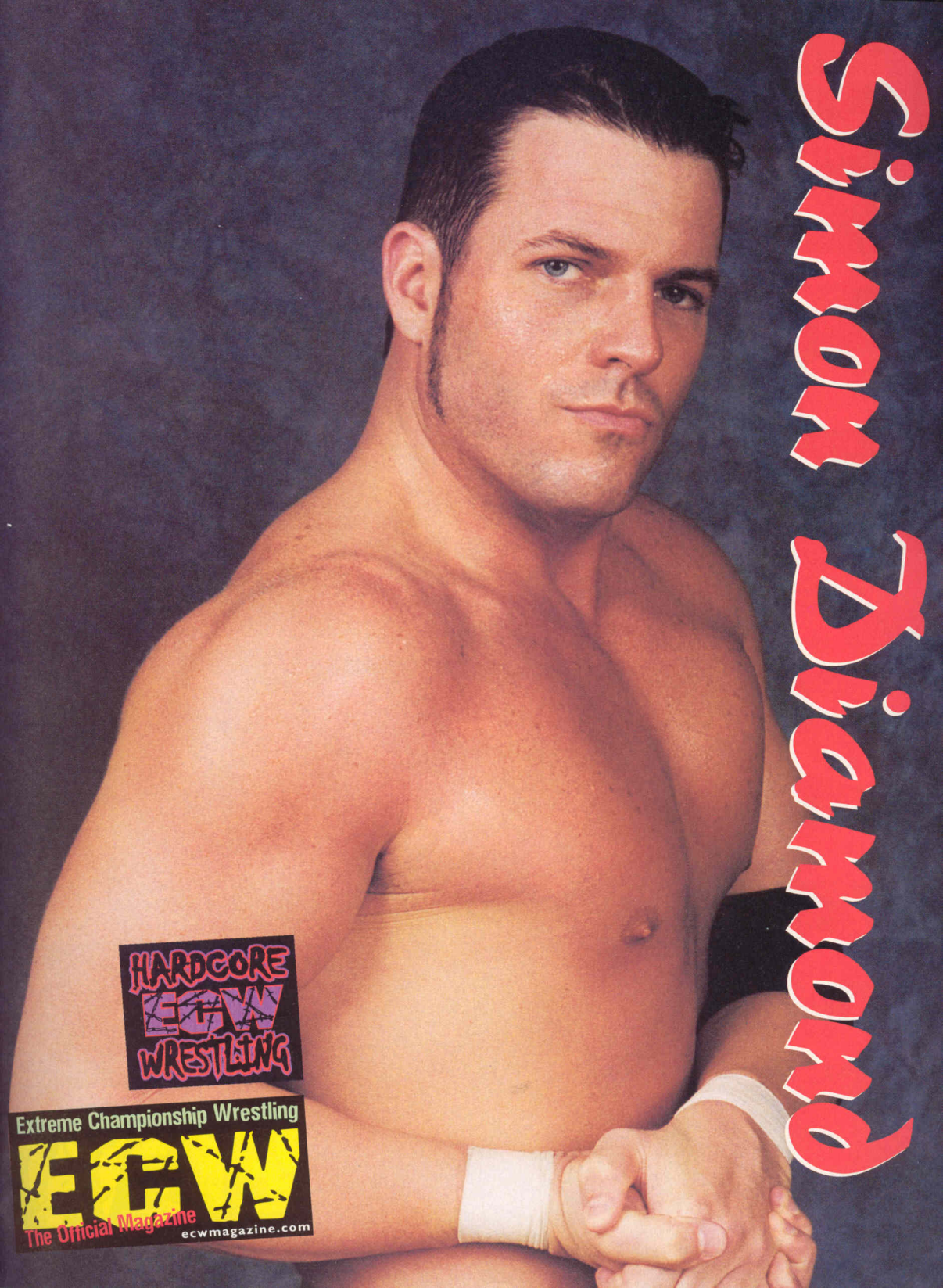
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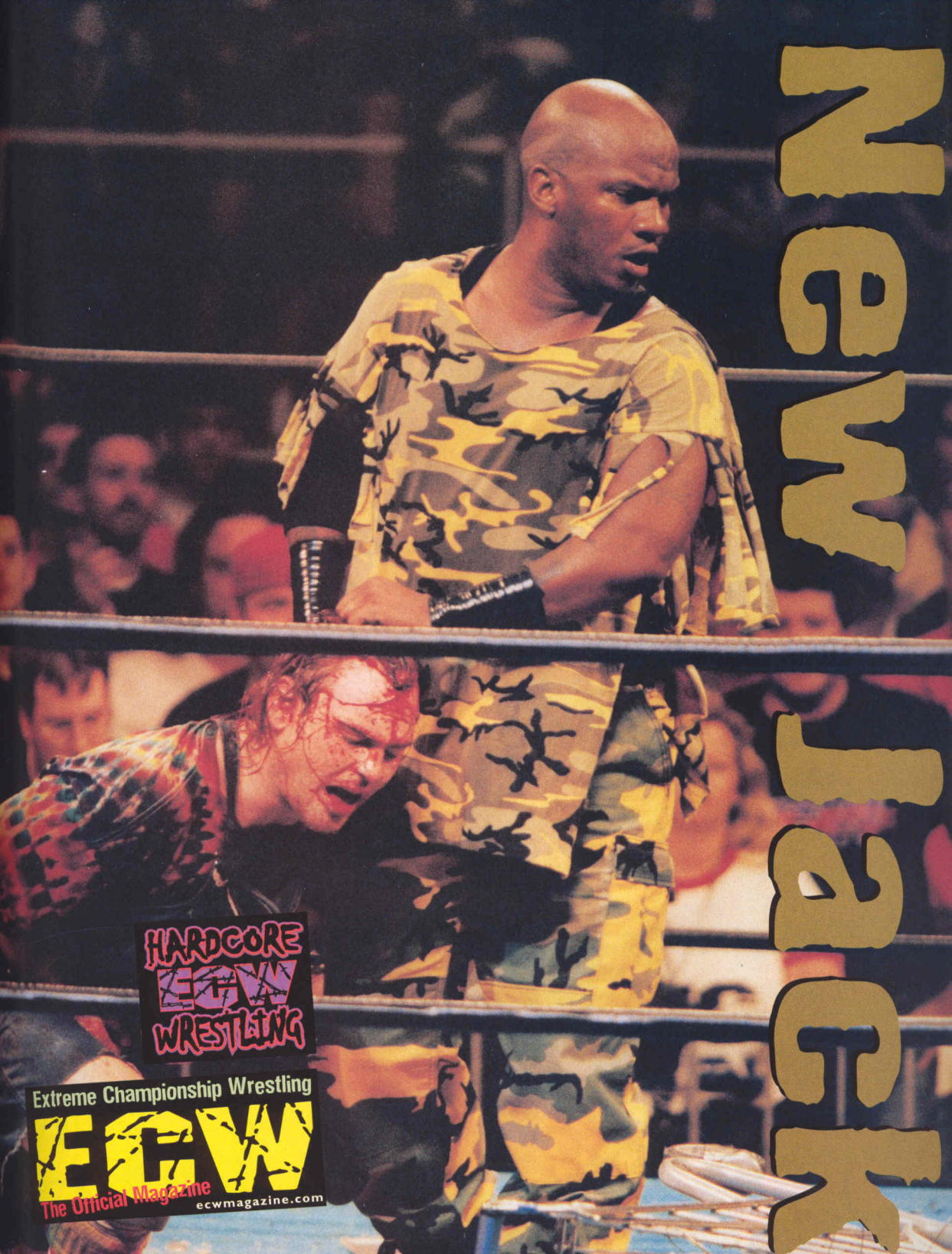
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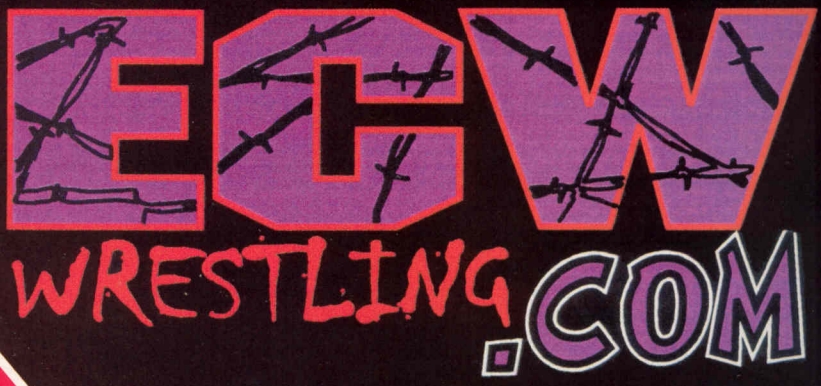

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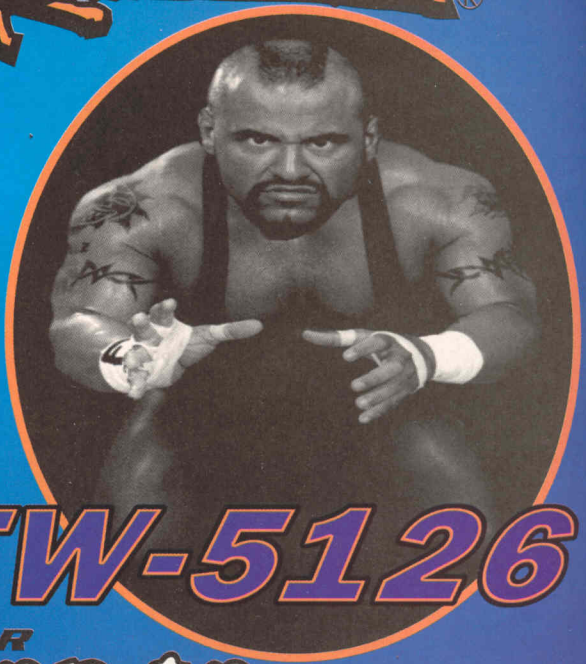

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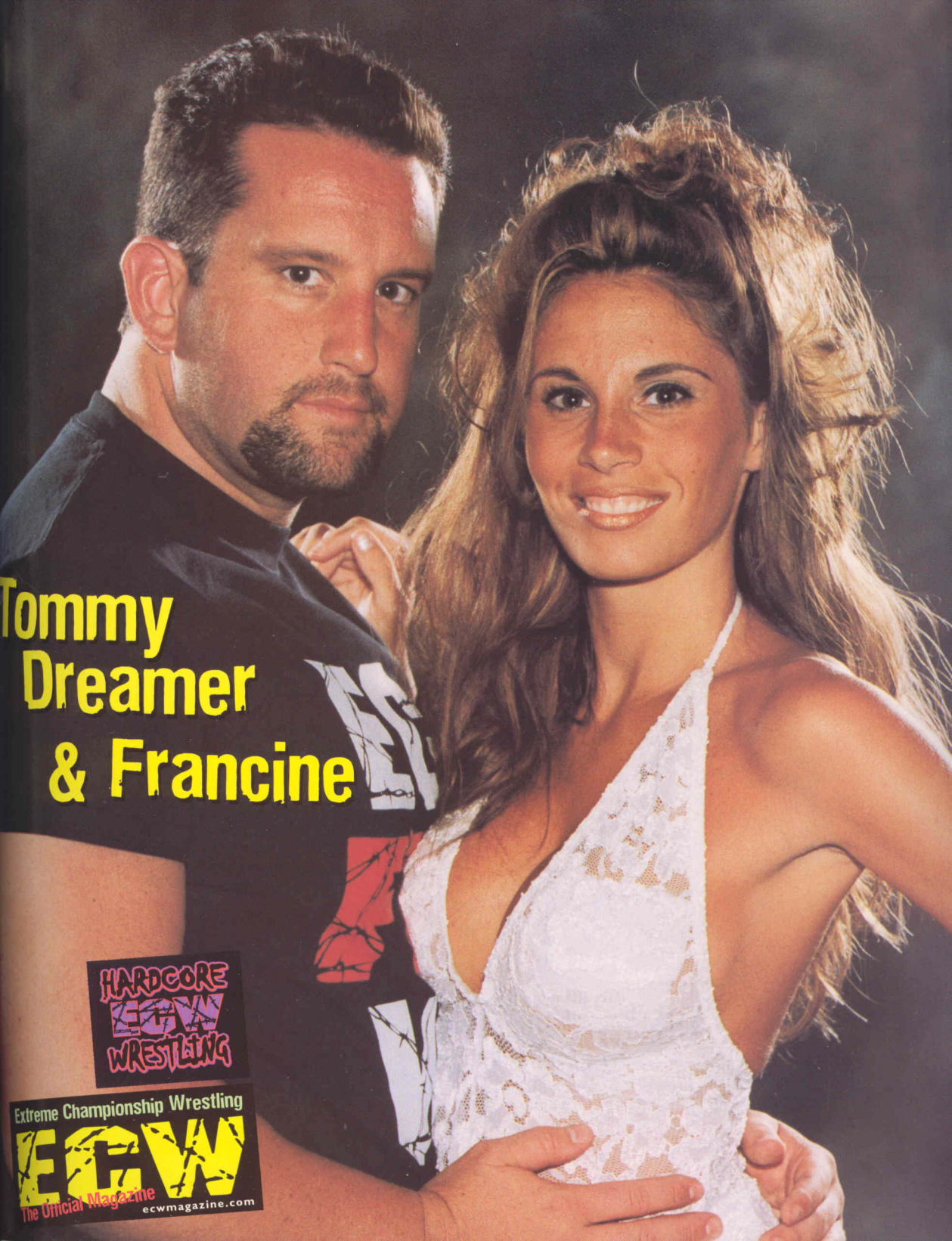
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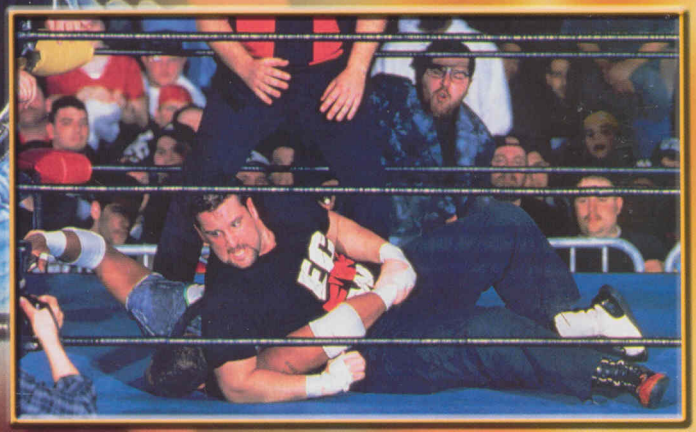

ECW WRESTLING

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